

THE

Nonconformist.

THE DISSIDENCE OF DISSENT AND THE PROTESTANTISM OF THE PROTESTANT RELIGION

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Eccelesiastical Affairs.

SYMPATHY WITH THE POPE.

"THE age is out of joint." There seems to have been an outpour of late of all the most monstrous pretensions and fancies of mediæval times—like mouldy roots of all varieties of plants shaken out of a bag—as if for the express purpose of filling the soil of the public mind with the countless sorts of rubbish which men used to flatter themselves had been extirpated by modern culture. Civilisation, of which nations are in the habit of boasting so incessantly—of what use is it, and whither but back to barbarism is it leading us? Listen for a moment to the combination of greed and ruffianism which is almost daily uttered by the press of Germany in the name of patriotism, and watch the practical interpretation which is put upon it by the Teutonic legions now engaged in ruthlessly devastating the Departments of France! Or take a sample from France itself, where it would almost seem that lying has been exalted into one of the cardinal virtues, and credulity in receiving lies a test by which to try a man's attachment to his country. Cross the Atlantic and attend one of Butler's meetings at Boston. What is it you hear, amid thunders of applause from a numerous audience? That the best way for a waning political party to recover its ascendancy is to provoke, if possible, Great Britain beyond endurance. Come back to England, and even from such a man as Mr. Gladstone you will learn that "Her Majesty's Government consider all that relates to the adequate support of the dignity of the Pope, and to his personal freedom and independence in the discharge of his spiritual functions, to be legitimate matter for their notice."

We confess we are startled by this utterance of the Prime Minister of England. If it had been an oral expression of opinion, we should have doubted the correctness of the report, or, having verified it, should have questioned how far Mr. Gladstone could have been conscious of the full meaning of the words he made use of. But the sentence we have quoted occurs in a letter to Mr. Dease, in acknowledgment of a memorial addressed to Her Majesty's Government by the inhabitants of Stradbally, Ireland, praying them to use diplomatic intervention to secure to the Pope the continuance of such a temporal sovereignty as will protect him in the

discharge of his spiritual duties, and secure him an adequate income. It must therefore be regarded as not merely a correct, but also a deliberate, exposition of the right hon. gentleman's sentiment. The English Government, he tells the memorialists, have not interfered with the civil Government of Rome, nor do they intend to do so. That is a sort of intervention which they repudiate. But "the adequate support of the dignity of the Pope," and "his personal freedom and independence in the discharge of his spiritual functions," are quite different matters, and may legitimately come under the notice of the Government. We should like to understand what Mr. Gladstone means by "an adequate support" of the Pope's dignity. Has he fallen into the vulgar error of those who seem to imagine that an ostentatious display of worldly wealth, honours, and retinue, can add in the slightest degree to the real dignity of one charged with spiritual functions, and assuming spiritual supremacy in the Church of Jesus Christ? Or is Mr. Gladstone merely adopting language which he supposes may please the Roman Catholics in Ireland and elsewhere? What have Her Majesty's Government to do with the support, adequate or inadequate, of the dignity of the Pope? If the dignity is that which attaches to his office as Supreme Pontiff of the Catholic Church, and as the infallible guide and instructor of Christendom, what support can Her Majesty's Ministers give to it except that which is ministered by their own reverent and implicit obedience? Is the Cabinet of St. James's thinking of doing spiritual homage to Pius IX.? We cannot believe it, although this is in truth the only support they can render to his "dignity."

"Personal freedom," undoubtedly, were it really threatened, might be very properly negotiated for on behalf of His Holiness, even by the advisers of a Protestant Sovereign, just as they have frequently negotiated with foreign Governments for the release from incarceration of both Jewish and Christian victims of ecclesiastical intolerance. But why are we to secure "the independence of the Pope in the discharge of his spiritual functions"? What is the meaning of the phrase? Has it any meaning whatever? "It is quite proper for Her Majesty's Government—quite consistent with English law and custom"—says Mr. Gladstone in effect—"to concern themselves in placing Pío Nono in such a position in relation to the various States of Europe, as will allow of his discharging whatever spiritual functions he may have assumed—that of infallible direction, amongst others—without hindrance from without." It may be very right that he should have that independence—it may be very unwise to put limitations on it or place impediments in the way of his exercise of it—but what on earth have Her Majesty's Ministers to do with it? Why are they to use the influence or the resources committed to them by an essentially Protestant people, in making it safe and easy for the Pope, to ban their doctrines, to curse their freedom, to upset, as far as possible, their systems of education, and to condemn themselves to everlasting torments? Let him do these things if he likes—he is not a subject of the British realm. But what necessity or what propriety is there in his being helped to do so by the Queen's advisers?

It may be supposed that Mr. Gladstone's

chief motive for thus writing to Mr. Dease was a political one—although it is far from unlikely that in flattering the Roman Catholics of Ireland by his reference to the Pope, he expressed also his personal sympathies. We doubt very much whether the Prime Minister sees the true strength of his position. So long as he pursues a policy of justice to Ireland, regardless of ecclesiastical distinctions, the vast majority of English Liberals will stand at his back, and give him their hearty support. But if he shows any inclination to truckle to the demands of the priesthood, Irish or English, he will do nothing towards gaining over the men to whom he defers, and he will certainly forfeit the confidence of more than one-half of his present supporters. The Pope will value his concessions at less than nothing when compared with the vague promises of the Emperor of Germany, nor will his chief representatives in this country do anything in return to facilitate the triumph of a simple policy of justice over the Irish Romanists. What said Archbishop Manning at the meeting at St. James's Hall, called on Friday last to "express sympathy with His Holiness Pope Pius the Ninth"? "No doubt," he said, "they (the Roman Catholics) were a small number in the midst of the millions of London—but a handful and a voice crying in the wilderness, or rather something less than a voice—the echo of a voice—but an echo which had been caught up from land to land, from one Catholic people to another, and was now encircling the globe, and would arouse in the Christian world an indignation and a storm which no fact in our remembrance had heretofore created." And again, "the Catholics of London might be few, but the Catholics of Great Britain and Ireland numbered 7,000,000—one fifth part of the population of these kingdoms; and he had yet to learn that the religious instincts of that portion of our population would be disregarded by public opinion, by a Government, and by an authority higher than both." Archbishop Manning, be it observed, was contending, not for "the independence of the Pope in the discharge of his spiritual functions," but for the restoration of his temporal sovereignty. This is the response of the priesthood to Mr. Gladstone's ill-timed allusion to their views. On the other hand, the London correspondent of the *Scotsman* says that his letter to Mr. Dease has gone like a "fiery cross" through the ranks of the evangelical religious party, and that numerous protests and indignation meetings are already in preparation.

Mr. Gladstone has not yet learned to keep the power and influence of his Government within its own proper sphere. There are not a few of his supporters who will help to teach him the lesson. He has made some grave mistakes which, in respect for his brilliant services, they have condoned. But even he cannot afford to repeat them often.

ECCLIASTICAL NOTES.

THE subject of pulpit intercommunion—upon which we have already expressed our opinion—was debated in a very interesting manner at a Conference held on Friday evening last, under the auspices of the Church Reform Union, and the presidency of Mr. Cowper-Temple, M.P. The proceedings will be found reported elsewhere. The opinions expressed by Churchmen upon this occasion will, we have no doubt, elicit expressions of approbation from some of our friends. And rightly so;

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because they indicate a very great advance in what may be called the Church mind. All the good feeling and all the charity that found expression at this meeting we heartily recognise, but, at the same time, we must express our conviction that nothing will come of this suddenly amiable move, and that, in the present state of things, nothing should come of it. It may or may not be intended, but it strikes us that this is a sort of ambidexterous attempt to compromise the question of Disestablishment. Well, all such attempts are too late, and now not one of them can succeed. Before long we shall see other attempts of the same kind, and we shall understand them just as we do this one. Let us say, in advance that the Nonconformists will not be caught by any of them. We look upon them with interested curiosity, but that is all.

We had thought, from recent statements, that the Church Institution was now in a flourishing condition, and have therefore read with surprise, and almost dismay, a letter from Mr. G. F. Chambers in the *Standard* of Friday last. Mr. Chambers writes to plead the cause of the institution. He says that "the Dissenters have a society established to promote the separation of Church and State, the confiscation of Church property, and the general degradation of the clergy. For these purposes the political Dissenters place at its disposal about 7,000*l.* year by year, and have done so for many years past," but the present annual income of the Church Institution, which was established for the purpose of counteracting the alarming, dreadful, and nefarious designs of the Liberation Society, does not exceed 800*l.* a year. Mr. Chambers, therefore, asks peers and peasants to come forward with their five-pound notes and their shillings. He describes the schemes of "gigantic aggression" which "Dissenters and infidels are hatching," and expresses his opinion that it will be to the eternal shame of Churchmen if those schemes should be passed into law because Churchmen be grudging the money necessary for the required defensive agitation. But really is this state of things, however mournful it may be, surprising? Men do not put down their money for falling causes, and English Churchmen—some bishops to wit—have an instinctive consciousness that the Establishment will very soon come to an end. Why should they put their money in such a sieve as the Church Institution? Mr. Chambers, in his honest zeal, talks of one or two thousand pounds saving the Church and all its remaining privileges. How is it that Church-rates were not saved? How is it that the Irish Church has fallen? No amount of money will save a bad law from condemnation, and no amount will save an institution which exists in defiance of the spirit of the age. We think, therefore, that on the whole, Churchmen prove their wisdom by not throwing away their cash in this direction.

We have also, in the *Standard*, two letters upon the subject of Church-rates. The Rev. W. Canham, Incumbent of Ramsholt, writes about the unfortunate position of his parish. It certainly appears to be unfortunate. Its "venerable church and old unique tower" can no longer be kept in repair. The incumbent's income is only some 50*l.* a year, there is no churchwarden, and the clerk, owing to the non-payment of his salary, first gave in his resignation, and then, from want of work, committed suicide. The church is now closed, and will be until means are found to repair it. This, we dare say, is a typical history, for Mr. Canham hints at other parishes being similarly situated. It suggests, as it seems to us, one or two very obvious remarks. The first is, that this church must have been, for a long time, a sham. It did not represent the religion of the people, and it has not made them religious, or, at any rate, it has not made them Churchmen, for as soon as compulsion is withdrawn, they refuse to have anything to do with its support. It is, therefore, properly, only a missionary church of the Episcopalian sect, set down amongst people who do not care for it. The members of this Episcopalian sect, therefore, if they care to have a mission station continued at Ramsholt, will, of course, find, as members of other denominations do, the money to supply the expenses connected with this mission. Probably there is no necessity for the continuance of Episcopalian worship at Ramsholt, and if this should be found to be the case, the church had better, if it can, be sold to the highest bidder. The second remark we make is that Churchmen would, we should have judged, have found it to their advantage not to wash their dirty clothes in public.

A correspondent of the *English Independent* of last week calls attention to an illustrated magazine for children, entitled *My Sunday Friend*, which is dedicated by permission to the Bishop of Winchester. The correspondent gives extracts from the magazine

upon the subjects of the Eucharist, the Sacraments, the Virgin Mary, the Infallibility of the Church, the Intercession of the Saints, Prayers for the Dead, the Confessional, and so on. Well, perhaps we had better quote these extracts, as illustrative of the "Bulwark of Protestantism":

The Eucharist: a True Sacrifice of the Real Presence.

We, too, have Him in the Eucharistic Sacrifice to offer to the Eternal Father.—Page 12.

In that holy service the priest and people do upon the earth what Christ, our Priest, is doing in heaven. In the breaking, they offer Jesus to the Father, as the one and only sacrifice for their many sins.—Page 22.

If He had not gone away, He would have only been in one part of the earth at a time, instead of, as now, being present in His dear sacrament, wherever there is a priest and an altar, all over the world. He is just as truly present in the blessed sacrament as if you saw Him and heard Him speak. Oh, let us all learn to love our Jesus in His sacrament more and more.—Page 40.

Thus He prepared them for His departure, and led them to believe and even comprehend His secret, invisible, yet most real presence in the sacrament of His body and blood.—Page 46.

Blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed. We earn that blessing if we firmly believe in the presence of Jesus in the Holy Eucharist.—Page 94.

The Forgiveness of Sins by Church Sacraments.

The forgiveness of sins was promised in the Old Testament; in the New it is actually imparted to the faithful.

The blood of Jesus is the fountain opened within the borders of the Church for all sin and uncleanness of men.

The ministers of Christ apply to the souls of men that cleansing blood, in the sacraments of which they are the stewards. Contemplate Holy Scripture in this light, and how beautiful is the mystery. Behold, there is water in the font, but to the eye of faith that water is blood from a dear Friend's side. The pouring of that stream on the infant or the grown man duly prepared, is his absolution from the guilt of sin. And so, too, when in sorrow, and faith, and love, you come to the Lord's table, and receive from the priest the body and blood of Christ, then you receive forgiveness of sin and all other benefits of His passion.

Jesus has said "Come unto Me." How can you go to Him but through the prayers, the sacraments, and the absolution of His Church?—Pages 86, 87.

The Virgin Mary Immaculate.

The Holy Virgin needed not this purification.—Page 19.

The Son of God desiring to become man sought a pure sanctuary in which to dwell, a spotless being of whom He would be born; that sanctuary and that being He found in Mary of Nazareth.

"Brethren" in the Bible often means "cousin." We must not suppose the Blessed Virgin had any other children besides our Lord Jesus; it would be wicked to think that.—Page 55.

Infallibility of the Church.

The Holy Ghost has never since that day left the Holy Catholic Church, but dwells within her, guiding her and preserving her from error.—Page 47.

"She" (the Catholic Church) is known by her Priesthood. This order is threefold, and includes the bishop, the priest, the deacon. She has a daily worship of God in her houses of religion. Upon her altars is offered the continual sacrifice.—Page 78.

Intercession by the Saints.

What a blessed thing it is to think of the thousands of saints who, through the merits of our dear Lord, are continually interceding with God for His suffering and struggling Church.—Page 87.

Prayers for the Dead.

If the good God has taken away from you, father, or mother, brother, or sister, or any one you love, you should think of him on All Souls' Day, and pray God to keep their souls in peace.—Page 87.

The Confessional.

Confession cleanses us from sins committed after baptism.

Attend no place of worship except the Church of England.

Confess your sins to your pastor as often as they trouble you.

Communicate at Easter, and at least once a month, and always fasting.

Observe all days of fasting and abstinence.

Send for your pastor as soon as you are ill.

Keep out of the way of temptation.

Join some confraternity, or religious society.—S. F. Almanack.

It appears from a letter of one of the Ritual Commissioners to the Editor of the *Echo*, written in reference to a correspondence which has been going on in the daily journals, that under the recommendations of the Ritual Commissioners, clergymen conducting the Burial Service will have liberty not only to use it in an abridged form, in the case of the unbaptized, &c., but that they will be at liberty to abridge it for other reasons, such as inclement weather. This, of course, gives great latitude to the clergyman, but it will soon become a question whether any service at the grave shall be obligatory. In the case of many Protestant Nonconformists and of all Roman Catholics, who are buried in the parish churchyard, a suitable service is conducted either at the house of the deceased, or at his accustomed place of public worship. We should be glad to see this practice more frequently adopted in such cases. Nothing is lost by it, while increased self-respect is gained.

The contest that has been going on at Oxford in reference to the admission of Keble College to University privileges has an interest of wide range. In all probability, Keble College is the first of many

similar institutions which will be founded at Oxford. It is founded avowedly for sectarian purposes, to teach sectarian doctrine for the advantage of a sectarian class. As has always been the case, the members of the Established Church are the first to show this sectarian spirit; but the example will, we dare say, be imitated. The Oxford Liberals think, however, that the existence of such an institution will be opposed to the Liberal spirit in which it has been resolved that University studies shall, in future, be carried on, and University rights be recognised. They are perhaps not unreasonably alarmed at seeing that, just as they see their way to the abolition of all sectarianism in reference to old and existing institutions, a claim should be made for the recognition of a new institution which, if not sectarian, is nothing. We think, however, that the alarm is groundless. What harm can ensue from the establishment of any number of sectarian colleges or halls in connection with the University? The tendency of the whole education will be, or should be, to eliminate the sectarian element, or, at any rate, to paralyse its influence. The *Pall Mall Gazette* says:—

The argument against religious tests has no application here. Keble College does not even come under the exemption in favour of new foundations inserted in the University Tests Act of last year. When tests are made illegal they will be as illegal in Keble College as in any other society. The only sectarianism about it is that it provides that the students shall be taught a particular kind of religion, and all that this amounts to is that so long as there are enough parents of a certain way of thinking, Keble College will not want for undergraduates.

Here our contemporary is, we believe, wrong. It was understood that Keble College should be exempted from the operation of the University Tests Act—if such an Act had been passed last year. On the whole, justice demanded its exemption.

We give in another column a quotation from a letter we have recently received from a well-known incumbent in the Established Church in favour of Disestablishment. His opinions—which are now known to be widely extending amongst his brethren—will be read with extreme interest.

THE LATE MR. ALBERT COCKSHAW.

It is with peculiarly painful regret that we have this week to state that our old friend and fellow-worker, Mr. Albert Cockshaw, has departed this life. Mr. Cockshaw died last Saturday, in ripe old age, quietly and painlessly, at the residence of his son-in-law, Mr. Carrier, of Oulton Hall, near Stone, in Staffordshire, where he had resided for some years.

To the older and now departing generation of Nonconformists Mr. Albert Cockshaw was widely and intimately known. The Editor of this journal first became acquainted with him at Leicester more than thirty years ago. Mr. Cockshaw was then in business as a printer. The *Leicester Mercury* was established by him in 1836, and while under his control did great service both in the Reform and Anti-State-Church movements. Soon after the *Nonconformist* was established, Mr. Cockshaw came to London, and when the Anti-State-Church Association was formed he was appointed by the executive committee to the post of managing clerk. He continued to occupy this position for many years, and all who then knew him will bear testimony to the zeal, activity, and assiduity with which he performed the duties then pertaining to that post, both in town and country. His active manner and cheerful face will be in the recollection of many of our friends. To the views advocated by this journal he was always a steadfast adherent. With him we lose one of the few now remaining who have read every number of the *Nonconformist* since it was issued, and, we believe, nearly all its contents. With him, also, the Liberation Society loses one of its oldest friends and almost its oldest servant. The next Triennial Conference will be the first that has been held without our friend's presence. The place and the people that so well knew him will know him no more. So it must be. He, no doubt, with vivid remembrance of the past, is happy in the change to the greater Present in which he now lives.

A CLERGYMAN ON DISESTABLISHMENT.

We have great pleasure in publishing, by permission, the following extract from a letter received from an Incumbent in the province of Canterbury, and a late Fellow of his college. The writer, after referring to other matters, says:—"I am heart and soul in favour of the Disestablishment of the Church of England, to which I belong; and trust no effort will be spared to bring it about speedily. There will be a deadly resistance on the part of the Conservative clergy, and most of the Evangelical clergy, also of the Erastian clergy; but the thought of the clergy will be with the movement. I have expressed my own

views rather fully elsewhere, some of which I saw was copied into the Liberation Society's annual report; but as the movement proceeds I may have more to say upon the subject. My conviction is, that the Church of England has in the immediate future but two alternatives—Disestablishment or Apostasy, and I lose no opportunity of instructing my people and all whom I can influence that we ought to be and shall be disestablished. 'From the sole of the foot to the crown of the head are putrifying sores.' And the first remedy must be Disestablishment. Anything else is mere quackery."

DISESTABLISHMENT OF THE ENGLISH CHURCH.

SOUTHAMPTON.

On Tuesday last week a lecture on the "Disestablishment of the English Church" was delivered at the Victoria Rooms, Southampton, by the Rev. Joseph Fletcher, of Christchurch. Captain Maxse, R.N., presided over a very full audience, and was supported by, among others, Messrs. Joseph Clark, W. Lankester, Darwin, Mayoss, J. A. Hunt, Lumley, Cozens, Alfred Hillier, Wakeford, Chaplin, Gilroy, Purkis, Knowles, Rev. J. Collins, Rev. G. Gregg, &c. After some brief introductory remarks from the Chairman,

The Rev. JOSEPH FLETCHER rose to deliver his lecture. After some reference to the history of the Irish Church abolition movement, he said he would not pretend to predict whether the resolution to be introduced with reference to the English Church would be carried or not, but he had no doubt that the principles embodied in the proposition of Edward Miall—which were of similar import in relation to the Church of England—would likewise tend to the great good of the nation at large and the glory of God. (Applause.) The great victory which had been won in reference to the Irish Church was not obtained without many efforts, and we could not but expect the battle now begun to be a severe, though at the same time a harmless, one, because there was no reason why friendship should not remain as between friends desirous of being guided in their deliberations and actions by truth. The people of this country never went back, and if ever they discovered anything like unjust principle at work they immediately endeavoured to do away with it, and eventually accomplished their object. It was so with reference to slavery and the slave-trade, the corn laws and free trade, Reform, and the Irish Church. Having shown that the Church of England was not entitled to be called a national Church, either on historical ground or by reason of numerical strength—according to the census of 1851 it provided for the spiritual wants of but 28.9 per cent. of the whole population. In America we found accommodation for 53 per cent.—provided not by law or statute setting apart any property for the use of the Church, but entirely and solely by the voluntary principle. (Applause.) His second question was—Had the Church secured uniformity of faith and practice: and upon this point he spoke at some length, showing that the "Acts of Uniformity" had led to anything but that—high churches, broad churches, narrow churches, and low churches—one bishop denying the truth of the Gospel, and another taking away from its plain and simple statements all their meaning and power, and turning the services of the Church into mere formality and ritualism—one clergyman prosecuted for heresy, and another for doing that which he doubtless thought to be right. The speaker then directed attention to the different Acts of Parliament by which the Church had from time to time been governed, showing how Henry, Edward, Mary, and Queen Bess had legislated for it, the one undoing the work of the other, but substantially leaving the Church to be governed to this day by one of Henry's statutes. Many people fancied that those who were reviving practices in the Church which had become effete were acting against its constitution, but he ventured to say they were not—(Hear, hear)—for several of the ancient Papal canons were still in force. Quoting from the consecration of Dr. Temple, he proceeded to show that even the Councils of Nicaea and Antioch were appealed to by our bishops for the guidance of the Church, and said a perusal of the statutes by which it was governed would show that it was no more Protestant than Papal. The Church could not be expected to reform itself—reform could only be obtained by Parliament separating it from State—(Hear)—for its clergy had no power to alter a single article, creed, phrase, or sentence in the prayer-book. Even the bishops were not appointed by the Church but by the Prime Minister of the day. After reference to the mode of consecrating bishops and the sale of benefices, the lecturer asked, Had the Church of England been faithful in the use of property devoted to it? Mr. Disraeli insisted that the Church of England was a very poor Church, but he believed it would be found that whereas when the property of the Church of Ireland was capitalised it amounted to 700,000*l.*, the total property of the Church of England, if capitalised, would amount to very little less than 200 millions sterling, and when they reflected that there are not more than 20,000 clergymen belonging to the Church, he thought they would agree this sum would go a good way amongst them. The *Quarterly Review* has estimated the income of the clergy of the Church of England at six millions sterling. Divide this by 20,000, and then reflect on the miserable pittance upon which its poor curates are expected to live. (Hear, hear.) He said such things ought not so to be. (Applause.) The bishops, of whom there were twenty-eight, had

annually amongst them 157,000*l.*, and they had been permitted in past times to farm their own beautiful estates; seeing that some of them were remarkably long lived, he quoted a few of the sums the more prominent of them had received in their lifetime—one 342,000*l.*, another 800,000*l.*, another more than half a million. Then there were the deans and canons, who drew stipends amounting in the aggregate to 160,000*l.* a year for doing nothing, or next to it; and in many parts of the country churches were endowed with incomes enormously disproportioned to the work to be done. Some people urged that portions of these endowments were private benefactions, but money once given away in this manner belonged to the Church and not to the donor, and the Church belonged to the State, or, in other words, to the nation. (Hear, hear.) So again was it with reference to the churches given by private individuals—as soon as consecrated they were no longer private property. As to the charges made against Liberatorists of spoliation and desecration and the like, they had always expressly stated their earnest desire that vested interests should be respected, and whatever private benefactions or endowments could be proved, they desired this property should be held most sacred, and appropriated to the disestablished Church. In conclusion, he passed in review the several points on which he had spoken, supplementing them by the remark that Convocation could not meet to deliberate, nor could it carry into execution any of its deliberations, without the permission of the Sovereign; that the sale of benefices was acknowledged on all hands to be a scandal; and added that if the Church could but throw off these trammels she could not fail to do a better and more spiritual work for the nation. He had no doubt that in time Mr. Gladstone would see eye to eye with them. But whatever might be Mr. Gladstone's future, he had no doubt that the Church of England would be disestablished, because it is not just that the whole nation should bear the stigma of the things done in it; it is not just to call it a national Church when those who dissent from it are numerically as strong as the members of that Church itself; it is not just to the truth, for it should be left to fight its own way without encumbrance; it is not just to the State that so large an amount of its wealth should be devoted to one sect; and, as it not just, it must go. (Loud and prolonged applause.)

The Rev. JOHN COLLIER proposed a resolution that, having regard to the facts already stated, as well as the state of public opinion as to the internal condition of the English Church Establishment, the meeting learned with great satisfaction that the Executive Committee of the Liberation Society had resolved upon operations the definite aim of which will be the application to England and Wales of the policy adopted with regard to the Irish Church. This he supported in a few remarks, and it was briefly seconded by Mr. W. LANKESTER, J.P. The resolution was carried with eight dissentients.

The Rev. J. FLETCHER proposed a warm and hearty vote of thanks to Captain Maxse for presiding.—The Rev. HERBERT SMITH having seconded the vote, it was supported by Mr. J. S. PEARCE, who expressed a hope that if the time should come for Captain Maxse to be returned as member for Southampton—(loud applause)—they would find him not only presiding at meetings of this kind, but supporting all such practical movements on the floor of the House of Commons. The vote having been carried by acclamation,

Captain MAXSE, in acknowledging it, said he thought all present would agree that Mr. Fletcher had given them a good deal to meditate upon. It would be cowardly if he shrank from telling them that he concurred in Mr. Fletcher's judgment. He was one of those impracticable eccentric people who preferred principle to policy. (Applause.) It was generally maintained that our highest religious dreams might be amply satisfied by the Thirty-nine Articles, the creed, and the catechism. But that was exactly what the Pope, from his point of view, had been saying for a long time to the wicked Protestants, and, as far as his experience went, if religion meant really striving after the truth and a firm resolution—spite evil tongues, rash judgment, and selfish men—if their highest conception of the truth was that it revealed its effects in our daily action and life, it appeared to him the Church of England repelled some of the most religious men in the country. In his opinion the Church of England failed to recognise that human thought was inexhaustible, was everlasting, was constantly developing itself, and pertinaciously presenting itself in new forms and beliefs, at variance with the older forms of belief. In the fact that the Church of England endeavoured to fix belief it lost its title to be a national Church; for either it must be more comprehensive and expand so as to include a greater amount of religious opinion, or it must yield its pretensions. On the other hand, there was what might be called the worldly argument. There are some people who appear to regard religion as a commodity to be officially administered for the benefit of the poor, in order to awe and subdue them—in order to preach content to them in their lowly lot. (Hear, hear.) He held this to be an idea degrading both to religion and to the poor, but if there were anything in the argument, the bishops and clergy had lost their influence amongst the labouring classes in towns in consequence of their obstinate hostility to all popular movements. (Hear, hear.) This was the gravest charge that could be brought against a Church—it was utterly destitute of all faith in human progress—in a high, humble belief that there is a benevolent capacity in the universe yet to be evolved by man as the agent for others. In the bench of bishops in the House of Peers he had no hesitation in saying we

preserve those who are obstructive from their very creed, who know no progress in politics, and so we deliberately maintain a body to thwart the national will, a course, which, in his opinion, was nothing less than madness, especially on the part of the Liberal party. (Applause.) Our House of Peers is, in its own character, essentially, and, he believed, mischievously conservative, because it only represents the upper part of society, and retrograde views. Mr. Fletcher had very happily said that whilst Mr. Disraeli had educated his party, the Liberal party must educate Mr. Gladstone. He had been informed that Mr. Gladstone was exceedingly astonished at the number of members in the House of Commons who this year voted for the removal of the bench of bishops, and he had no doubt that, were he now to make a speech upon the subject, he would hardly express himself in the same terms as he did earlier in the year. He was a man combining with a most acute conscience a disposition to modify his opinion in the presence of new facts brought before him by earnest men. He had no fear, therefore, that, if Mr. Gladstone was at the head of the Government whenever this subject should assume sufficient proportions to be carried on in the House, he would be found voting for it. Another argument which appeared plausible, was that which asserted the necessity of preserving some organisation in order to contend with the powerful organisation of Roman Catholicism. When, however, the head of Catholicism had been dethroned from his temporal power, if his spiritual power was increasing, that was the fault of Protestantism. (Hear.) Among the things by which it was hampered was this Establishment, but, be that as it might, so long as we denounced the temporal power of the Pope, we could not consistently favour that form of the like power which is now represented in our Church.

A cordial vote of thanks to Mr. Fletcher for attending.

DEWSBURY.—We reserve a report of the excellent meeting held in this town for our next number.

ROYSTON.—Mr. Andrew Carey Fuller delivered a lecture at this town on Tuesday evening last week on "Hindrances to the Progress of Religion, arising out of the State Church." The lecture was well attended, and at the close the Rev. E. Corbold moved a vote of thanks to the lecturer, which was seconded by the Rev. J. Medway.

ASHWELL.—On Wednesday Mr. Fuller delivered a lecture in the large schoolroom of the Independent Chapel, on the "Present Aspect of the State Church Question in this Country and in Europe," to a crowded and appreciative audience; the Rev. J. B. Milson in the chair.

THURFIELD, HERTS.—The usual quiet of this little village was broken in upon on Thursday evening by a lecture in its large and commodious schoolroom on "Religious Equality, &c.," by Mr. A. C. Fuller, agent of the Liberation Society. The schoolroom was comfortably filled by an audience consisting of Churchmen as well as Dissenters, who appeared greatly interested in the statements of the lecturer.

PULPIT INTER-COMMUNION.

A conference was held at the room of the Social Science Association on Friday evening, under the auspices of the Church Reform Union, to discuss the subject of "the admission, under proper safeguards, of persons not in Anglican Holy Orders to preach in the pulpits of the Church of England." Mr. Cowper-Temple, M.P., the Chairman of the Church Reform Union, presided, and among those present were Lord Lyttelton, the Dean of Westminster, Mr. Thomas Hughes, M.P., Sir Antonio Brady, the Rev. E. A. Abbott, the Rev. J. Llewelyn Davies, the Rev. T. W. Fowle, the Rev. Baldwin Brown, the Rev. H. Allon, and other Anglican and Nonconformist ministers and laymen.

The CHAIRMAN opened the proceedings with a statement of the scope and objects of the Union, which were to reform those Acts of Parliament which fettered the inner life of the Church. When the Act of Uniformity was passed, the State cared little for individual convictions on religious subjects, and now that there was universal toleration, the Church was hampered by regulations which were old and obsolete, and unsuited to the ordinary conditions of society. At present the rector or incumbent had no proper opportunity of ascertaining the wishes of the majority of the parishioners on Church matters, and if the wishes of the laymen had proper expression, and their voices were equal to that of the clergyman, parochial strife would be much diminished. What was wanted was that the laws and government of the Church should be brought into harmony with the actual facts as to lay influence in the country and the Church. For this purpose laymen should be associated with the clergy in parishes, and have a defined share of powers in Church matters; and they should also be associated with the bishops in a supreme synod. Such a change would induce in the Church a vitality which would be a new feature in Church history. There should be special lay services in the parish church, more adapted to the requirements of the working classes than the ordinary services were; and the pulpits should not, as at present, be irretrievably closed to all ministers except those of the Church. It would be reasonable that the incumbent, with the sanction perhaps of the bishop, should be able to open his pulpit to any minister of another denomination whom his congregation might wish to hear. Again, many laymen were endowed with the special gift of preaching, and why should a pedantic rule with narrow exclusiveness prevent a congregation from

enjoying this benefit? The wish of the members of the Union was to render the Establishment more fitted for the purposes for which it was founded, and to extend the day when the Church of England might be dealt with in a similar way to the Church of Ireland. Even supposing that the day should come here for the separation of Church from State, the work in which they were now engaged would not be lost. Meanwhile, they desired carefully to consider every means of enlarging the powers and usefulness of the Church to meet the wants of the present day.

Three short papers were then read on the special subject of the conference.

The Rev. J. L. DAVIES, in his paper, favoured the admission to Church pulpits of persons who, perhaps, would not accept a bishop's licence to preach, instead of restricting this privilege only to ordained and subscribing clergymen. The Anglican Church enjoyed the greatest freedom in the matter of hymns, and a minister might introduce to his congregation almost any he pleased, from those of Faber to those of Watts. Yet if a Greek archbishop, or a Father Hyacinthe, or an Adolph Monod came among us, our Church had the reproach of inhospitality to wipe off; she did not allow eminent divines of the Scotch Church like Dr. Norman Macleod to fill her pulpits; nor must laymen enter there. As to the security against the abuse of a power of invitation, if vested in the incumbent, he thought we might rely on the feeling which would naturally guide the responsible guardians of the pulpit. They would have no motive to offend their congregations by inviting unsuitable persons. It would be possible, though not, he thought, desirable, to give the bishop power to inhibit. Such an opening of Church pulpits would be a movement in the direction of true Catholicity, would afford a means of utilising spiritual gifts in the Church, and would give a wholesome stimulus to the religious activity of the Church.

Mr. DROOP explained the legal obstacles which prevent unlicensed persons from preaching in the pulpits which are under the control of the authorities of the Church of England. These obstacles, he explained, were originally intended to prevent any but ordained ministers of that Church from preaching anywhere. And he pointed out how entirely this intention had been defeated by the establishment and toleration of many Dissenting sects.

The Rev. BALDWIN BROWN, discussing the question from a Dissenting point of view, condemned the Act of Uniformity as foolish and wicked, and declared that if he was a member of the Church of England he would never rest until it was repealed. The discussion of this question he recognised as the first step towards a frank recognition of the labours and services of Dissenters, and to a complete religious reciprocity; and maintained that the clergymen of the Church of England would learn more by preaching in Dissenting pulpits than would the ministers of Dissenting congregations by occupying the pulpits of the Church. He especially deprecated the creation of anything like a list of quasi-licensed Dissenting preachers, and warned the promoters of this movement not to imagine that those Dissenting ministers who might be most willing to act with them were any more inclined towards the Establishment than were their fellows.

Dean STANLEY said the High-Church party ought not to take umbrage at this movement, because, according to ancient ecclesiastical principles, preaching had never been considered a part of the ecclesiastical office. Some of the greatest preachers had been laymen; among others, St. Francis, who was the great revivalist preacher and Nonconformist of the Middle Ages. Four classes of persons would be affected by the change now sought in the law. First, ministers of the Established Church of Scotland, and there were no persons whom he should be more desirous of welcoming in the Church of England pulpits, for they enjoyed a complete historical status of their own, and here was no reason whatever that they should not be allowed to preach in Anglican churches. Indeed, down to the time of the Stuarts, there was a complete interchange between the two churches. Then there were Roman Catholics, like Father Hyacinthe, who might be invited to preach in our churches; Nonconformists, alienated from the Church by the miserable policy of the Act of Uniformity; and laymen. Some safeguards would be necessary, and might easily prevent the possibility that, as had been suggested, a Mormon might preach in St. Paul's Cathedral under the new system.

A lengthened and interesting discussion followed the reading of the papers. The Rev. Mr. BAINES suggested that before Nonconformists could occupy the pulpits of the Church, it would be necessary to alter many things in the Liturgy which might offend their feelings; while Mr. J. GIRDLESTONE expressed some doubts as to the safeguards with which the admission of unordained persons to the pulpit should be surrounded. The Rev. H. ALLON urged upon the conference that this movement must be founded entirely upon the principle of giving the clergyman liberty, under certain conditions, to invite whom he pleased into his pulpit. The discussion was continued by the Rev. Mr. FOWLE, Mr. Eugene Stock, General Burrowes, and other gentlemen.

THE RITUAL COMMISSION.

(From the Times.)

The fourth and last Blue-book of the Commissioners appointed to inquire into the rubrics of the Prayer-book extends to 252 folio pages. The most important part, the final report, has been in private circulation, and its contents have been generally known for some time, with the "dissents" or protests by which the several commissioners express

their dissatisfaction with the report or with some part or other of it. The Blue-book goes on to give the minutes of the proceedings at the 108 meetings of the commissioners, with the motions, resolutions, "provisional" decisions, alterations, and final decisions; rather weary reading those ninety folio pages are. There was a very large number of divisions, and several were close; some were "ties." Nearly a hundred pages are occupied with the reports of the proceedings against Mr. Mackonochie, Mr. Wix, and Mr. Purchas. The commissioners are entitled to the credit of having spared no pains or labour in executing the work entrusted to them, but disagreement was inevitable in a commission representing all parties in the Church; and a classification of the proceedings showing the proposals rejected, the recommendations made but with a difference of opinion, and the recommendations approved by all present, would, perhaps, be not edifying. The proposed new lectionary was prepared by a committee, which appears to have comprised Earl Beauchamp, Bishop Wilberforce, Bishop Ellicott, Bishop Thirlwall, Dean Stanley, Dean Goodwin, Dean Jeremie, Canon Payne Smith, and the Rev. W. G. Humphry. The lectionary has met with no serious opposition, and is generally allowed to be an improvement on the table of lessons now in force. As originally prepared, the Book of Tobit was in the new lectionary, but at a meeting of the commission Mr. Walpole moved that that book be altogether omitted from the calendar; and the motion being carried by the narrow majority of thirteen against eleven, it was referred back to the committee to select other lessons for the days on which lessons from the Book of Tobit had been appointed. The commissioners propose that on special occasions the bishop shall have power to allow special psalms and lessons to be used. He is also to have power to sanction the use on week-days of selections from the service instead of the whole of it. The commissioners propose to retain the direction that all clergymen "are to say daily" the Morning and Evening Prayer, but in substance they abolish it by the device of appending a statement that it is not retained "as a compulsory rule," but as a witness to the value put by the Church on daily prayers and intercessions, and on the daily reading of the Holy Scriptures. The Athanasian Creed was the subject of much discussion, which ended in the adoption of an explanatory note, stating "that the condemnations are to be no otherwise understood than as a solemn warning of the peril of those who wilfully reject the Catholic faith." In the burial service shorter (alternative) lessons are provided, and also a shortened burial service, consisting of the appointed psalms and lesson, the four sentences at the grave, the Lord's Prayer, and the Grace. It is to be lawful for the clergyman to read this shortened service "on sufficient cause," but not without permission of the bishop, unless from want of time this permission cannot be obtained. Some rubrics might have been made more plain and clear. It may seem a small matter, but it is worth mentioning, that in the rubrics as the commissioners propose them there will be three different rules of speech. Already the opening sentences of the service are to be read "with a loud voice," the lessons "distinctly with an audible voice," and now it is to be added that the communion service is to be "said with an audible voice." It is proposed that morning prayer, litany, and communion service may be used together or as separate services. It is proposed to limit (perhaps abolish), by another of the commission's notes, the right of the clergyman to repel from the communion notorious evil livers; "the foregoing directions are not to be held to authorise the refusal of the Holy Communion to those who humbly and devoutly desire to partake thereof." Without going into further details we may state that the commissioners held their first meeting on June 17, 1867, and on June 28, 1870, they closed their work with votes of thanks to the Archbishop of Canterbury, as chairman, to the Bishop of Winchester, as chairman during the Archbishop's illness; to the Dean of Westminster, for the use of the Jerusalem Chamber; and to Mr. Kemp, the secretary. They might have added an expression of general thankfulness that their proceedings had come to an end.

THE TEMPORAL POWER OF THE PAPACY.

MR. GLADSTONE AND THE POPE.

Mr. Gladstone has written the following letter to Mr. Dease, member for Queen's County:—

Downing-street, Nov. 30.

Sir,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 15th inst. transmitting a memorial from the inhabitants of Stradbally, in which you state that they express their desire that Her Majesty's Government may see fit to use "such diplomatic intervention as may secure to the Pope the continuance of such a temporal Sovereignty as will protect him in the discharge of his spiritual duties, together with an adequate income." The memorial itself is couched in larger or less definite language, but I do not doubt that I am to recognise you as the best expositor of the feelings it is intended to express.

In reply I have to state that Her Majesty's Government have not, during the various changes which have marked the reign of the present Pope, interfered, nor have they now proposed to interfere, with the civil government of the city of Rome or the surrounding country.

But Her Majesty's Government consider all that relates to the adequate support of the dignity of the Pope, and to his personal freedom and independence in the discharge of his spiritual functions, to be legitimate matter for their notice.

Indeed, without waiting for the occurrence of an actual necessity, they have during the uncertainties of the last few months taken upon themselves to make provision which would have tended to afford necessary protection to the person of the Sovereign Pontiff.

The subjects to which I have adverted will continue to have their careful attention; although they have had great satisfaction in observing that the Italian Government has declared in the most explicit manner its desire and intention to respect and defend the Pope's freedom and independence, and to take care that adequate provision shall be forthcoming for the due support of his dignity.

I have, &c.,
E. Dease, Esq., M.P.

W. E. GLADSTONE.

MEETING AT ST. JAMES'S HALL.

A public meeting was held at St. James's Hall, on Friday night, for the purpose of "expressing sympathy with His Holiness Pope Pius the Ninth." The body of the hall and galleries were well filled before the hour fixed for commencing the proceedings, the audience including a large proportion of ladies. On the platform were the Duke of Norfolk, the Earl of Denbigh, the Earl of Gainsborough, Lord Arundell of Wardour, Lord Herries, Viscount Campden, Sir George Bowyer, Dr. O'Connor, Mr. I. J. O'Connor, &c. Archbishop Manning, who presided, was very warmly greeted on entering the hall. The burden of his speech was what he called the moral imprisonment of the Holy Father and the wickedness of the Italian Government. In conclusion, he said: The Catholics of Baltimore had pointed out how the Roman State ought to be a neutral State, and they had great examples of that. They had Belgium a neutral State, for which England was ready to go to war the other day. They had the Black Sea a neutral sea. They all knew of what they had been reading lately, and the most healthful symptom of the time was the high moral tone assumed as to the respect due to treaties. The Holy Father, while under the necessity of defending himself against a revolution, was always not only a neutral but an unarmed Power, and to talk of foreign bayonets being employed in the protection of that which was the chief treasury of the United States of Christendom was to talk nonsense, and to speak in a tone which virtually rejected the Christian principles on which the civilisation of Christendom rested. To abandon that neutral and unarmed authority to the violence of the strong was, as Count Montalembert well said, like looking on when they saw a man strike a woman, and that woman your mother. He trusted that a healthier tone would arise, and that when France and Germany, who were now locked in deadly conflict, should be released, and should return to such calmness as to admit of deliberation, Christian Europe would know that there was an interest higher than that of civil order—the Christian order of the world—and he hoped that our country would not look on and hold the clothes of those who stoned Stephen. Sir George Bowyer said Mr. Gladstone's letter admitted that the independent exercise of the Holy Father's spiritual power was a matter of importance to the statesmen of this country; and no doubt the fact was so. The British Government, he urged, should be made to know that they must not neglect the interests and feelings of 7,000,000 of the people, and must be taught that Ireland would not be trifled with. Lord Denbigh wondered whether Mr. Gladstone had shown his letter to Mr. Dease, to his own Foreign Secretary, who wrote so spirited an answer to Prince Gortschakoff's circular in respect to the faith of treaties. He could hardly think that Lord Granville would have endorsed the Premier's letter. He believed, however, that we had some statesmen in England who would uphold the cause of right and condemn the commission of wrong. Was it because the Pope was the head of the Catholic world that he was to be put out of court. When Pius VII. was in captivity, Mr. Pitt declared that Rome alone could then raise an impartial voice. Even Lord Palmerston—no great friend to the Pope—writing in January, 1849, to one of our ambassadors, said it was much to be wished that the Pope should be sovereign of a territory of his own. The Pope—if he might so express himself—was like the escarpment of the great Christian watch. If anything went wrong with him, the whole machine went wrong.

On Thursday evening there was a great meeting in the Ulster Hall, Belfast, to protest against any interference on the part of Great Britain to restore the temporal sovereignty of the Pope. The Rev. Hugh Hanna, Presbyterian minister, occupied the chair. Resolutions were adopted which declared that the Papal Government has long been an intolerable grievance, that the Italian Government are justified in seeking to incorporate Rome with their kingdom, that it is absurd to allege that the temporal sovereignty is essential to the spiritual independence of the Pope, and that a memorial be forwarded to the Government praying that the influence of England may be exerted in aid of the unification and progress of the Italian Kingdom.

CORRESPONDENCE FROM ROME.

The *Daily News* "Special Correspondent" at Rome, writing Dec. 4, says that applications for help in other quarters having proved vain, the head of the Latin Church is turning for help to the head of the Greek schism. The Vatican now puts its sole trust in a general conflagration. It believes that it has still some spiritual wares to offer for which the Czar may find it worth his while to give a military equivalent. It will send bulls and briefs to the Polish bishops, enjoining upon them the sacred duty of making their flocks submissive to the Russian Emperor. It will send other bulls and briefs to the prelates of Galicia, enjoining upon them the duty of opposing and thwarting the Austro-Hungarian Government, should the latter seek to arrest the aggressive movements of the Czar. Ample and exact information of these relations between the Vatican and St. Petersburg, have reached the Italian Government.

Under date Dec. 4, the Roman correspondent of the *Pall Mall Gazette* writes as follows:—

Last week Father Kosmian, secretary of Monsignor Ledochowski, Archbishop of Posen, arrived here from Versailles, and proceeded immediately to the Vatican to visit Cardinal Antonelli. The next day Father Kosmian was received by the Pope, to whom he presented a letter from the King of Prussia. The Archbishop of Posen was sent to Versailles by the Holy Father to ask the King's intervention in favour of the Holy See; and, whatever you may see stated in other journals, I am in a position to inform you that his mission was successful. The King tells the Holy Father that he can take no active steps during the continuance of the war with France, but that he will make the cause of the Holy See his first thought as soon as the conflict shall cease. He even says that he is in accord on this point with France, which is thought to imply that he has come to an understanding either with Napoleon III. or Henry V. I hear a whisper, however, of his promises being accompanied by a proposal which gives them a Bismarkian air, requiring the Holy Father, after the fall of Paris, to urge the French not to continue a hopeless struggle. The Vatican retains a strong belief in France, and the Holy Father will not allow himself to be drawn into a measure which the French nation would never forgive. But there is no doubt that the King of Prussia has need of the Pope's countenance in other projects, one of which is his assumption of the Imperial Crown; and Count Bismark will find it hard to attain his ends without full satisfaction to Cardinal Antonelli. The Vatican, indeed, declares that this is already given; and, so far as Prussian assurances go, there is certainly some prospect of a restoration, in some limited form, of the temporal power.

The Archbishop of Posen has also arranged at Versailles the affair of the apostolic nunciature for Germany. The nunciature to Bavaria is to be suppressed, and one will be established at Berlin for the whole of the new Empire. I am informed that, in return for his successful negotiation, the Archbishop of Posen has been created a cardinal *in petto*, and will himself be nominated to the Berlin nunciature, with the title of Cardinal-Legate to Germany. His elevation to the Sacred College will be announced in the next Consistory.

The Pope is again in good spirits. On St. Andrew's Day, after receiving Father Kosmian, he gave audience to a company of sixty ladies, and delivered a short address, thanking them for coming to visit him in his prison, and stating that the day of his liberation approached, and the reign of the demon was drawing to an end. Since this reception the Roman ladies of the clerical party have displayed great activity. A Catholic committee has been formed, under the presidency of the Marchioness Antio-Mattei, to which they all contribute; they attend services for the restoration of the temporal power, and go up the Scala Santa on their knees. On the other hand, the Italian authorities, according to Vatican informants, are about to demolish the stations of the Via Crucis in the Colosseum and to remove the cross from the centre of the ruin—measures which would please everybody but the holy Vandals who thrust such emblems into the most unsuitable places.

The *Athenæum* understands that Professor Döllinger and two other of the Munich Professors have finally signified their intention to refuse submission to the dogma of the Infallibility of the Pope.

THE WHITCHURCH CHURCH-RATE CASE.—On Saturday the Judicial Committee gave judgment in the case of *Smallbones v. Edney and Lunn*. This was an appeal from the Archdeacon of Southhampton. The parish of Whitchurch, Southhampton, had borrowed 2,000*l.* from the Public Loan Commissioners, to be paid by yearly instalments. A rate of sixpence in the pound had been made, and was resisted by the appellant on the ground that it was illegal, and because the impropriator of the tithes had not been assessed, and that the money had been expended on the chancel as well as the body of the church, it being, it was alleged, the duty of the impropriator to repair the chancel. Lord Justice Mellish gave the judgment of their Lordships. The appeal was allowed, and the decision of Sir R. Phillimore reversed, with costs to the appellant in both courts.

Religious and Denominational News

The Rev. Joseph Sellicks has accepted a cordial and unanimous invitation to become the minister of Salem Congregational Chapel, Newton Abbot.

The Rev. B. Moss, late of Newton, near Hyde, Lancashire, has been appointed assistant minister of Monk's Eleigh, in connection with the Congregational Church, Hadleigh, Suffolk.

The Rev. Joseph Woodhouse, of the Western College, has accepted a cordial and unanimous invitation to the pastorate of the Congregational Church at Leominster, and commenced his ministry there on Sunday, Dec. 4.

The Rev. H. Watts, of Stanningley, has resigned his office as pastor of the Baptist Church there, and has accepted the unanimous invitation to the pastorate of the Baptist Church at Barnsley. He will enter upon his labours in that district the first Lord's Day in the new year.

THE JUBILEE OF THE REV. JOHN MCFARLANE was celebrated at Hamilton on the 2nd of December. The ceremonial consisted of a *soirée*, the presentation of about one hundred sovereigns, a rich pulpit gown, &c., to Mr. McFarlane, with a small souvenir to Mrs. McFarlane. In the course of his address, the venerable guest reviewed his ministerial career. He was licensed in Glasgow in November, 1821, ordained in Dumbarton, where he remained for ten years, after which he was called to Hamilton, where he has ministered for the last forty years. The last thirty of these were spent in his present church, which, on the occasion of his rupture with the United Presbyterian Church, was built for him by his sup-

porters at a cost of 1,500*l.* The church is entirely free of debt.

KILBURN.—The church and congregation meeting at Greville-place Chapel, Kilburn, who have been without a stated pastor since April, 1869, when the Rev. J. C. Galloway resigned his charge to give himself wholly to the work of the secretariat of the English Chapel-building Society, assembled on Monday evening week to give a public recognition to the Rev. Percy Strutt, who has been called to that office. Mr. Strutt had been for some time previously the pastor of a church at Spalding, which he had been compelled to leave in consequence of ill-health. The Rev. Dr. Halley presided, and in his opening address contrasted this recognition service with one to which his attention had been drawn in an old church-book, belonging to the Congregational Church at Cambridge. The minister of that church, with five others, having come up to London to be ordained by ministers who had previously gone through that ceremony, the ordainers stipulated that no one should know, save the young men themselves and a few selected friends, what they were doing, and one of the reverend gentlemen was so timid that he made it a condition of his presence that the young men should never be told who he was, and he was accordingly entered in the church-books as *reverendus dominus anonymus*—the Rev. Mr. Anonymous. They might all rejoice that they were living in the more favoured days of religious liberty. Dr. Halley gave a cordial welcome to Mr. Strutt, who thirty years since had been a student under his care at Highbury, and anticipated for him a career of great usefulness in this neighbourhood. A paper was read by Mr. Callard, explanatory of the past history of the church; and addresses were delivered by the Revs. W. Bevan (of Bow), J. Godwin, Wilson, Johnson Barker (of New College Chapel), and John Bevan, to which Mr. Strutt responded in an address marked by deep emotion. The devotional services were conducted by the Rev. Dr. Wardlaw, the Rev. J. C. Galloway, and the Rev. Dr. Halley.

WESLEYAN CHAPEL-BUILDING.—The first of a series of public services on behalf of the Wesleyan Metropolitan Chapel-building Fund was held on Tuesday at Liverpool-road Wesleyan Chapel. During the evening it was stated by the secretary, the Rev. Gervase Smith, that the fund was originated in 1861 for the purpose of assisting by grants and loans the erection and enlargement of Wesleyan chapels in the metropolis. Since its formation about 200,000*l.* had been raised in various ways to carry on its operations, and it had erected twenty-five large chapels, capable of holding 1,100 or more persons. Remarkable success had attended the efforts put forth in the East-end of London, where 8,000*l.* had been expended in connection with chapel and school-chapels, which had been opened free of debt. Sir Francis Lytett had taken great interest in the fund from its commencement, and when in 1865 its means were exhausted, he promised 6,000*l.* if 12,000*l.* more could be raised from other sources. The conditions were fully met, and the amount was handed over to the fund. Sir Francis afterwards offered to give 500*l.* each to ten new chapels on certain conditions, but from various causes only five circuits had been able to avail themselves of this liberal offer. He next offered 10,000*l.* if 10,000*l.* more could be raised from other sources; but the offer was subsequently altered to the munificent promise of 50,000*l.* during the next nine years, on condition that 50,000*l.* more should be raised in the country, in order that fifty new chapels might be commenced around London during that period. The secretary stated that other large contributions had been received, and that when visiting some country districts recently in conjunction with Sir Francis Lytett nearly 10,000*l.* had been promised on behalf of the fund. Sites for fifteen new chapels had already been secured, and in order to carry out the proposal to build during the next nine years fifty new chapels they would require about 300,000*l.*

Correspondence.

MISSIONS IN TINNIVELLY.

To the Editor of the *Nonconformist*.

SIR,—The success which has attended the London Mission Society's mission in South Travancore is well known. To the east of Travancore is Tinnivelly, where equally successful missions are carried on by the Church Missionary Society, and by the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts.

Just on the boundary line between the two provinces the home station of what was previously known as the James Town district existed. The nearest home station belonging to the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel was then about twenty-five miles distant.

God very abundantly blessed the labours of the missionary (the Rev. James Russell), so much so that round James Town, as a centre, numerous large flourishing congregations were established. At the time I refer to fifteen of them were in towns and villages lying to the east of James Town, and, consequently, in the Tinnivelly province.

About six years ago the Tinnivelly missionaries of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, in name of their society, addressed a letter to the secretary of our committee in Travancore, with a request that it might be circulated among the missionaries for their remarks, and then transmitted to the directors of our society for their consideration. The substance of the letter was as follows:—

"Your sphere of labour is the province of Travancore;

and your mission is known as 'the South Travancore mission.' Our field is part of Tinnivelly. It is an understood arrangement, acknowledged by all Protestant missionary societies, that where the field is already occupied another society must not intrude. Your society has no fewer than fifteen congregations in Tinnivelly, those congregations, being in our province, we claim, and we request your directors to sanction the transference, we promising to pay for the chapel properties according to a fair valuation."

The letter was circulated in committee. One or two of the brethren supported the claim; others, anxious to be friendly with both parties, supported both sides of the question; and two of us formally protested against recommending the transference, principally on the ground that the people themselves were strongly opposed to their being handed over to the S.P.G.

The letter, along with our remarks, protest, and petitions from the native converts, was forwarded to our directors, and in due time we received the resolution of the board, intimating that, after much anxious deliberation, impressed with the importance of acting upon the principle of non-intervention into spheres occupied by other societies, the directors felt bound to accede to the request of the S.P.G., and therefore instruct the committee to have the chapels and grounds valued, and to transfer the fifteen congregations in Tinnivelly belonging to the James Town district of the L.M.S. to the S.P.G.

Without one word of comment, I leave this little episode of missionary church history to produce its own impression, especially upon the minds of the promoters of the scheme for the establishment of a bishopric in the capital of Madagascar and their sympathisers, merely reminding them of the saying of Him whose servants, I trust, we and they are, "Whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them."

I am, yours faithfully,

JOHN LOWE,

Medical Missionary, S. Travancore,
Portobello, Edin., Dec. 10, 1870.

"PERSECUTION BY THE GODLY."

To the Editor of the *Nonconformist*.

SIR,—The case of cruel persecution mentioned by Mr. White in your last issue will doubtless shock many of your readers; but there are not a few to whom it will occasion no surprise. The spirit of religious persecution is not extinct, as many can testify from bitter experience. True, the old modes of inflicting bodily pains cannot now be adopted—the law protects from this method of persecution—but there are other kinds of pains and penalties, no less hard to bear, and which continue to be inflicted with great severity, and that in Evangelical Nonconformist churches. A short time ago, a lovely young Christian was formally expelled from the church of which she was a member, for no other reason on earth than that she was unable to find in Scripture the doctrine of the soul's natural immortality, and the everlasting sufferings of all out of Christ; and this is no uncommon case. Within a very short period I have become acquainted with six faithful preachers of the Gospel, who have been greatly persecuted, and suffered severe temporal losses, simply and alone because they ventured to give as their belief that "the wages of sin is"—not a life of never-ending torment in fire and brimstone, but that it is—"death." And I know of others who are thoroughly convinced that this is the teaching of God's Word, but fear to avow their belief well knowing the bitter persecution that would follow. Sir, is there no remedy for this disgraceful state of things? Will no Boanerges arise to rebuke this wicked spirit of persecution?

I am, Sir, yours respectfully,

A BIBLE CHRISTIAN.

POOR CHILDREN'S DINNERS.

To the Editor of the *Nonconformist*.

DEAR SIR,—The time is drawing very near when it is customary to give the poor little destitute children a Christmas dinner of roast beef and plum-pudding; also weekly dinners during the succeeding three or four months. May I be permitted to call your readers' attention to the fact that this season, though a festive one to many, is very trying to the poor and wretched inmates of the courts and alleys?

We wish to give a Christmas dinner, if possible, to about 200 poor and aged men and women.

Contributions of money, clothing, provisions, &c., will be gratefully received by

Dear Sir, yours respectfully,

HON. SEC.

The "Good Shepherd" Ragged Schools, Carlton-road, Peckham, S.E.

Dec. 12, 1870.

ANGLO-AMERICAN COMMITTEE.—Some time since a Committee was formed "for the purpose of obtaining the best possible securities for the continuance of peace and amity between England and the United States." It was, however, determined that, pending the settlement of the Eastern question, no public action should be taken. Mr. Thomas Hughes is the chairman of the committee, which consists of many influential persons. A list of their names will shortly be published. Communications should be addressed to the Hon. Secretary, 7, Adam-street Adelphi.

THE WAR.

DEFEATS OF THE FRENCH ARMY OF THE LOIRE.

In our last number we recorded the defeat of part of the Army of the Loire by Prince Frederick Charles, and the evacuation of Orleans, and its strong lines of defence, by General d'Aurelles des Paladines. In consequence of these disasters General d'Aurelles resigned. He was appointed to the command of the camp of instruction at Cherbourg, but he declined it on account of ill-health. General Chanzy was appointed to succeed him. The retreat of the Loire Army from Orleans, made in several directions by distinct corps, was by no means a rout, but conducted in perfect order, and without any loss of artillery trains. The 16th (General Chanzy's) corps, and the 17th, seem not to have crossed the Loire, but to have retreated down the right bank of the river to defend Blois, and to have taken up their position very near where the army of General D'Aurelles was encamped before the battle of Coulmiers on the 9th of November. Here General Chanzy was attacked, with his right on Meung and his left on the front of St. Laurent des Bois, on Wednesday (7th December), and to have fought all day, only withdrawing his right a little towards Beaugency, where the main attack of the German army was directed. The Germans took a gun and a mitrailleuse and a few prisoners, but do not claim a victory; and the King of Prussia, in telegraphing the news, anticipates further resistance in that quarter. General Chanzy, in his report of the day, says he had to contend against two Bavarian and one Prussian division, with 2,000 cavalry, with a considerable reserve in the rear; that the enemy had eighty-six guns, and was driven back as far as Grand Chatre, and that the French army bivouacked on Tuesday night in the positions it held in the morning.

On Thursday the fighting was renewed, and proved to be unfavourable to the French. On that day the Duke of Mecklenburg telegraphed from Meung:—"A severe but victorious battle was fought to-day by the Duke of Mecklenburg's troops against three French army corps. The German loss is not inconsiderable; that of the enemy is much greater. Six cannon and about 1,000 prisoners are in our hands." In consequence of this defeat, the Delegate Government decided to retire from Tours, from which city there was a regular stampede, and to go to Bordeaux; but M. Gambetta remains at head-quarters with General Chanzy.

On the 9th there was another warm engagement between the Grand Duke's forces, when the French were driven from all their strong positions in the Forest of Marchenoir, and many prisoners were made. The town of Beaugency, the important railway position of Vierzon, and a number of villages, were occupied by the Germans. But on the 10th the Grand Duke was reduced to the defensive, Chanzy, whose line probably extended beyond the German right, assuming the position of assailant, and though repulsed in his effort to regain ground, he resumed it on the 10th, the fourth day of this severe skirmishing. In all these actions the Mecklenburg Corps of Prussians was supported by the 1st Bavarians, but on the 11th it was found expedient to send these back to Orleans, nominally to garrison the city, but, as there is hardly a doubt, more really because of their exhausted and reduced condition. Von der Tann's infantry was reported before the battle of Coulmiers to have shrunk to 16,000 soldiers only. We have heard since of losses registered by the Germans amounting to 4,000. To these are now to be added the effects of the four days ending Saturday.

While the Duke of Mecklenburg has been engaged on the north bank of the Loire in a series of apparently indecisive actions with General Chanzy, the position of the latter has been turned by the advance of the Hessians along the south bank. On Friday, the third day of the fighting near Meung, Prince Louis appears to have driven a French division, probably the rear of the 15th Corps, from points half-way between Meung and Blois on the opposite side of the river, and so several miles beyond Chanzy's right. Somewhere between that afternoon and that of Sunday, the Hessian division had got as far as Blois, and occupied the large suburb on the southern side of the Loire. What force Chanzy had in that direction to cover his rear from the risk of this division crossing the line of retreat on Tours it is impossible to say, but it is more than probable that the danger compelled him to abandon the line so gallantly maintained against front attacks, and enter on the retreat which a Versailles telegram says is being followed up by the Duke of Mecklenburg.

The King has sent the following telegram to Queen Augusta:—"After the battles round Beaugency, which lasted four days, and all of which ended victoriously for us, even if in consequence of the superior numbers of the enemy no important ground was gained, the enemy unexpectedly withdrew towards Blois and Tours. This step probably was made in consequence of his serious losses, while ours were small. Many deserters have come in there as well as at Rouen. Many of the Mobile Guards have thrown away their arms and accoutrements, and have returned home, but enough still remain. To-day a rapid thaw is taking place."

NORTHERN FRANCE.

The German army under General Manteuffel was divided into two bodies after the occupation of Rouen. One occupied Evreux, and appeared to be threatening Cherbourg; the other advancing on Havre. In that flourishing seaport great preparations were made to resist an attack. There were some 350 guns in position manned by Marines, and some 40,000 Mobiles. On Monday the Germans were in great force about sixteen miles from Havre.

It is announced from Lille that Ham and St. Quentin, to the north of Paris, have been reoccupied by the French. The statement as to Ham is confirmed by a telegram from Versailles, which, however speaks of the affair as a surprise of a field railway detachment, but it also admits the loss of fifty soldiers.

On Friday a detachment of General Manteuffel's forces marched upon the seaport of Dieppe, which was undefended. They behaved well. No requisitions were made; nothing was required at the hands of the officials but a little wine, brandy, and tobacco. No damage was done but an overhauling of the castle and the breaking of some 1,500 old flint guns. On Saturday morning the German troops marched out, taking the road to Paris.

The Prussians have been within four miles of Honfleur, but 10,000 French troops marched from Caen and occupied Pont Levêque, which covers Honfleur, when the Prussians retreated.

Phalsburg, the little fortress on the Vosges, capitulated on Monday. The bombardment of Montmédy has commenced.

General Garibaldi is reported to have thrown up his command, and will return to Italy.

THE LATE SORTIES FROM PARIS.

M. Louis Jezierski, in the *Opinion Nationale*, gives an account of the sortie from Paris on the 30th, at which he was present. It was ten o'clock in the morning when Ducrot's columns crossed the Marne. At first the road was clear, being commanded by some of the works of Paris, and the Prussians having by the recent bombardment of Champigny been driven half out of that village. The objective of the French was Villers-sur-Marne, the key of a plateau which extends to that of Chennevières; it was through the gap between the two plateaux, following the line of the highway and the railroad, that they advanced against the German positions. A wood on each side of the road was quickly occupied and cleared of its obstacles; the lines deployed so as to press round Villers while facing towards Brie and Champigny. Then the battle began. Soon the French had their artillery planted on the summit of the ridge, with Villers at their feet; but, on the other hand, they were opposed by some formidable German works which opened upon them. At the same time German infantry also began to pour in a terrible fire, as if from under the earth, from the shelter of their entrenchments. Startled by such a hot reception, the French hesitated and stopped their dash forwards. It was necessary for them to fling themselves on the ground; those in the most exposed situations seemed as if about to retreat. It was now eleven o'clock, and a very critical moment. The generals and officers, however, by their gallantry and enthusiasm, succeeded in steadying their men, and the arrival of considerable reinforcements also confirmed their resolution. Moreover, they had the benefit of effective support from the artillery, which swept the ground in front, and prevented a single German from venturing out of the pits. The French therefore renewed the assault with great energy, compelling the Germans to draw in their lines, as being too distended, and to concentrate above Villers in a kind of entrenched camp. This was the position at three o'clock; a tremendous fire was kept up between the two forces for nearly two hours more, and then, light failing, the battle was, as if by mutual consent, stopped on each side, the French having the advantage of spending the night in positions which the Germans had held in the morning. M. Jezierski, who has been at most of the great battles of this war, bears testimony to the steadfastness and bravery of the Mobiles.

The special correspondent of the *Daily News* at the headquarters of the Crown Prince of Prussia, writing on the 5th, says that General Trochu had a chance on the 30th of breaking through the German lines and getting away from Paris with some of his army, and that on the 1st there was still a possibility of bearing down the Württembergers and their supports; but that now, such measures have been taken by the Germans that a glance at the line of country to be passed over when the French finally came forth would discourage the stoutest of them. There is, the correspondent thinks, but very little probability that the garrison of Paris will cut its way through the German lines.

On the 30th ult. shells were discharged from the Paris forts at a greater range than it was believed the guns were capable of carrying. Before then Montmorency had never been touched by a shell, and it was believed to be just out of range. But on the 30th the shells not only came crashing into Montmorency, but even fell behind it—a range of somewhere about 6,300 metres. In all, seventy-two shells fell that day in Montmorency. There was however, only one casualty from all this pounding—a line officer wounded.

EXPECTED BOMBARDMENT OF PARIS.

The *Daily Telegraph* correspondent at the German headquarters telegraphs on the 9th—"There is no doubt that should the Parisians not be convinced of the hopelessness of further delay in capitulation, by the events of last week, the Germans will unhesitatingly proceed to the cruel work they have so long

deferred—the bombardment of the city. I am now, without any breach of confidence, able to say that at this moment the shells of German batteries already in position command the very centre of Paris—that Notre Dame itself can be made as good a target as the Cathedral was at Strasbourg. According to all that I hear, the bombardment will probably commence on Monday week, the 19th inst." The *Daily News* correspondent sends the following message of the same date—"The victory of Prince Frederick Charles at Orleans on the 4th inst. is supposed to put an end to all chance of Paris being assisted from without. It is expected nevertheless that the garrison will make further efforts against the German lines, and the situation of affairs to the east of the city is considered very threatening. The French still hold some of their advanced positions upon the great bend of the Marne, such as Champigny, which they have strongly barricaded. Masses of German troops are watching them." The Germans bear the cold weather exceedingly well. The French deserters speak of suffering from hunger, and the discouragement which small rations cause."

In anticipation of the surrender of Paris large purchases of cattle, meat, and other provisions continue to be made at Berlin. Much discussion prevails as to the quickest mode of sending these supplies when the time arrives. The railway is now reconstructed to Lagny, but with only one line of rails. It has been suggested that steamers under the English flag should be despatched at once by the Seine from Havre to some convenient spot close to the beleaguered city.

INSIDE PARIS.

The *Daily News* has published further letters from "A Besieged Resident," coming down to Dec. 6, when the result of the great sortie had been made known to the people. He says that the Parisians are somewhat "taken aback at the victory resulting in a retreat." The population is in profound ignorance of the real state of affairs outside. The losses of the preceding three days are estimated at 10,000 killed and wounded, but it is unlikely Government will admit they are more than 2,000 or 3,000. The writer says—"The events of the past week prove that General Trochu's sole available force for resisting the enemy consists of the Line and the Mobiles. As for the population of Paris, they are more than useless. They eat up the provisions; they are endowed with a mixture of obstinacy and conceit, which will very probably enable them to endure considerable hardships rather than surrender; fight, however, they will not, although I am convinced that, to the end of their lives, they will boast of their heroic valour." The Ultra-Democrats in the clubs have, he says, a new theory to account for their refusal to fight:—

"We are, observed an orator, a few nights ago, the children of Paris, she has need of us; can we leave her at such a moment? Some of these heroes, indeed, assert that the best plan would be to allow the Prussians to enter and then convert them to the doctrines of Republicanism. I think it was St. Augustine who did not despair of the devil eventually turning over a new leaf; in the same way I heard an ardent patriot express the hope of being able to convert 'William' himself to the creed of the Universal Republic. At the club where these fraternal sentiments were expressed there is a lady who sits on the platform. When any one makes what she considers a good speech she embraces him on both cheeks. She is by no means ugly, and I had serious thoughts of making a few observations myself in view of the reward. That bashfulness, however, which has been my bane through life prevented me. The lady occasionally speaks herself, and is fond of giving her own experiences. 'I was on my way to this club,' she said, 'the other evening, when I observed a man following me. 'What dost thou want?' I asked, sternly eyeing him. 'I love you,' replied the vile aristocrat. 'I am the wife of a citizen,' I answered, 'and the mother of the Gracchi.' The wretch sneaked away abashed to seek other prey. If he addresses himself to some princess or duchess he will probably find a victim.' The loudest applause greeted this 'experience,' and several very unclean-looking patriots rushed forward to embrace the mother of the Gracchi, in order to show her how highly they appreciated her noble conduct."

The following is a list of the prices of "luxuries":—"Terrines of chicken, 16s.; of rabbit, 13s.; a fowl, 26s.; a rabbit, 18s.; a turkey, 60s.; a goose, 45s.; one cauliflower, 3s.; one cabbage, 4s.; dog is 2s. a lb.; a cat skinned costs 5s.; a rat, 1s.; if fat from the drains, 1s. 50c. Almost all the animals in the Jardin des Plantes have been eaten. They have averaged about 7s. a lb. Kangaroo, however, has been sold for 12s. the lb. Yesterday I dined with the correspondent of a London paper. He had managed to get a large piece of mutton, an animal which is, I believe, only found in Corsica. I can only describe it by saying that it tasted of mutton, and of nothing else. Without being absolutely bad, I do not think that I shall take up my residence in Corsica, in order habitually to feed upon it."

The "Besieged Resident," writing from Paris on the 3rd, jocularly says:—"All the animals in the Zoological Gardens have been killed except the monkeys; these are kept alive from a vague and Darwinian notion that they are our relatives. In the cellar of the English Embassy there are three sheep. Never did the rich man lust more after the poor man's ewe lamb than I lust after these sheep. I go and look at them frequently, much as a London Arab goes to have a smell at a cookshop. Some one has discovered that an excellent jelly can be made out of old bones, and we are called upon by the mayors to give up all our bones, in order that they may be submitted to the process."

The following is the translation of a private letter, dated this 5th inst., from a French lady in Paris:—

What a long and terrible trial this is, and how much I suffer from the want of news of my absent children. We are nevertheless getting on well, and the chances of success are restoring courage. During two days and two nights this week the cannon did not cease. It was a sinister and disheartening sound. Sleep was impossible. The image of that field of battle is impressed upon me. Every fibre trembles. I mourn all my loved ones without knowing anything of them. How my son, who was at Metz with Bazaine, must have suffered, if his general was really a traitor. But you must know better than we what has happened; for we scarcely dare believe anything, so many falsehoods have been uttered. There is now contentment, because there is hope. But at what a cost shall we obtain the mastery! How I regret that I did not lay in a supply of provisions. We can obtain nothing now, even with money. We live almost entirely on soup made from extract of meat. Every four days they give us, for five persons, one pound and a quarter of meat (salt beef or horse). There is no lack of bread, and that is the essential; but this cannot last long. People are calm; the poor are the best attended to, and that is right. It must not be supposed that Paris is a prey to anarchy, as the foreign papers say. There is a patriotic ardour which is general. Nevertheless, this must not last too long. We live in the midst of emotion and expectancy, and I fear to know the truth.

The *Paris Journal* states that one result of the action before Champigny on Dec. 1 was to add five days' supply to the store of fresh meat in the capital, from 1,000 to 1,200 wounded and dead horses having been found in the lines carried by the Paris troops, while their own loss of horses did not exceed 300 or 400. The flesh of all these animals was to be distributed among the various butchers of the capital.

If the Parisians can conquer their repugnance, it is said that there are fifteen days' further provision of fresh meat in rats, of which Paris contains more than twenty millions.

The *Lettre Journal*, a miniature newspaper, the size of a single sheet of notepaper, contains a list of the provisions which were to be supplied day by day to the Parisians during the week before last—Sunday, cod; Monday, salt pork; Tuesday, cod; Wednesday, preserved beef and mutton; Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, fresh beef. The same paper states that, in addition to potatoes, there were still fresh vegetables, such as cabbages and celery, and that large quantities of preserved vegetables were to be had at the dealers. Bread was being made of flour, ground in Paris, and though not quite so white, was of as good quality as ever. Of chocolate and preserves there was no lack. The supply of milk was kept up by 4,217 cows, so that no scarcity was to be feared.

The closing of the gates of Paris to all but the military, a measure which was put in force on Sunday, the 27th ult., had led to the discovery of a certain number of male and female spies, who being thus interfered with, had nevertheless attempted to get beyond the fortifications. There was some talk of executing two or three women of loose character who had been detected as spies.

The state of public feeling, according to the *Lettre Journal*, was everything that could be desired. Never before had Paris enjoyed so much tranquillity, such complete freedom from agitation. Attacks against the Government were becoming rarer in the press; there was but one thought, the safety and honour of the country, but one feeling, that of impatience for the struggle. This was just before the great sortie.

About eight o'clock on the 29th, when rumours most favourable to the success of the French arms were circulating in Paris, several articles of food which had long been mythical suddenly appeared in the shop-fronts of the vendors of eatables—butter, sardines, polonies, &c. At eleven o'clock, ham at five francs a pound was seen in the Rue Neuve des Capucines. Towards one o'clock, however, these good things began to disappear, and at four o'clock the shopkeepers swore by all that is sacred that they had had nothing of the kind since the investment.

The scarcity of paper in Paris during the siege does not prevent the appearance of new journals, but their existence is precarious. The *Garde National*, the *Drapeau Rouge*, and the *Faubeurien* have ceased to appear. The *Moniteur des Citoyennes*, which was to come out every Sunday, has hitherto published but one number. The *Garibaldi* has only appeared twice. Then comes the *Wounded Lion*, whose roars have not made much noise as yet, and the *Ami de la France*. At the end of this list we must mention the *Trac*, the journal of the timid, which informs the public that in case of bombardment the subscribers to this paper will be able to find it and read it in their cellars, without disturbing themselves, as the newspaper boys have been told to throw it down the gratings in the event of this terrible possibility being realised.

General Dhencourt, one of General Trochu's aides-de-camp, who left Paris in a balloon on the 5th, has arrived at Lille. He claims as victories the two days' fighting before Paris on the 30th Nov. and 2nd Dec., and declares that the Prussian losses in killed and wounded were 15,000. He states that the Parisians have plenty of provisions, the measures of defence are complete, and that Paris is quite safe from attack.

THE REPORTED DEMAND FOR AN ARMISTICE.

The *Daily News* of Monday makes the following statement relative to its recent announcement some days previously, that M. Gambetta had asked for an armistice:—"The statement which we published on Friday with respect to M. Gambetta's application for an armistice was based upon a telegram from a member of the Provisional Government to a French gentleman in London. A subsequent telegram from the same quarter states that M. Gambetta, finding the spirit and temper of the Army of the Loire much

better than he had supposed, and being especially encouraged by the success of General Chanzy, had for the present abandoned the design of asking for an armistice. He will remain at the headquarters of the Army of the Loire."

The *Times* believes that no step whatever was taken by M. Gambetta to put himself in communication with the German headquarters at Versailles. The French Minister of War simply signified to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Tours that France could not be duly represented at the London Conference unless a regular Government was instituted by a Constituent Assembly; and that, therefore, it was the duty of the English Government to negotiate an armistice with a view to allow the elections to be held. As the revictualing of Paris was included among the conditions of the armistice, it was, of course, impossible that M. Gambetta's proposal could be entertained.

PRUSSIAN BRUTALITY.

M. Chandordy, the Delegate of the Minister for Foreign Affairs, has addressed a circular to the agents of France abroad, in which he complains that the Germans, not content with crushing towns and villages, have laid their hands on the private property of the citizens.

Articles of clothing taken from houses or from dealers, objects of every kind, clocks and watches, have been found on the prisoners who have fallen into our hands. A landed proprietor, arrested in his own château, was condemned to pay a personal ransom of 80,000f. Another saw carried off the shawls, laces, furs, and silk dresses of his wife. Everywhere the cellars were emptied, and the wines packed up, loaded on vehicles, and carried off. Further, every house in which a Franco-tireur had been sheltered or given food is burned. So much for property. Human life has been no better respected. To burn houses, to massacre old men and women from afar, to attack, so to speak, the defenders in the very existence of their families, to wound them in the deepest feelings of humanity, that they might afterwards bow down before the conqueror, and entreat the humiliations of a hostile occupation, is a refinement of well-calculated violence which approaches torture. They have, however, gone further, and, enhancing these cruelties by a nameless sophism, have used them as a weapon. They have dared to pretend that every town that defends itself is a fortress, and that when it is bombarded it may afterwards be treated as a fortress taken by assault. All that was wanted to complete the code of barbarism was the re-establishment of the system of hostages. Prussia has done it. To secure the safety of her transports and the tranquillity of her encampments, she has conceived the idea of punishing every attack on her soldiers or on her convoys by the imprisonment, the exile, or even the death of one of the notables of the country. She has carried off forty hostages from among the notables of the towns of Dijon, Gray, and Vesoul, under the pretext that we do not set at liberty forty sea captains, made prisoners according to the laws of war. Magistrates have been seen whose age ought to have commanded respect from the most hardened hearts, exposed on the engines of railways to all the rigours of the hard season, and to the insults of soldiers. Sanctuaries of churches have been profaned and fouled. Priests have been beaten, women maltreated, and still happy to escape being treated yet more cruelly.

The *Telegraph's* correspondent at Tours reports that he has just been "officially" examined respecting M. Chandordy's assertions as to the conduct of the Prussians in France. He adds: "I have replied, as I will now affirm, that in the circular which I send you the conduct of the invader is mildly, very mildly put. These are not the times, nor is this the place, in which to argue the case, and to state facts which have come under my own eye since the day I saw the first French defeat at Woerth. Truth is great, and it will prevail. I should be very sorry to implicate all Prussian officers in the sentence which the civilised world will, sooner or later, pass upon their army for its cowardly treatment of defenceless villagers. But, if there is anything like justice in this world or in the next, the sufferings that the French people have undergone at the hands of their invaders must some day be avenged. And as regards M. Chandordy's circular, I could say, if placed upon oath, that, from what I have seen in Alsace, Lorraine, the Department of Oise, the Ardennes, and wherever the Prussians have been, he has understated, not overstated, his case."

The papers again teem with news about the shooting of prisoners and the destroying of villages. The *Berlin Börsen Courier* reports, under date Versailles, Nov. 20:—"Yesterday the first wounded and prisoners arrived from the action near Dreux on the 17th. Short work was made with the Franco-tireurs, and an example was made of them; they were placed in a row, and one after the other got a bullet through his head. A general order for the whole army has been published forbidding most expressly to bring them in as prisoners, and ordering to shoot them down by drumhead court-martial wherever they show themselves. Against these disgracefully cowardly brigands and ragamuffins [Lumpengeside] such a proceeding has become an absolute necessity." Again, the *Vienna Tagespresse* says, under the same date:—"In the forest of Villeneuve you could have seen, for the last week, four Franco-tireurs strung up for shooting at our Uhlans from the woods."

Dr. Horne writes to the *Cologne Gazette*:—"The further the Second Army advances the more difficulties it meets with. Hitherto, we had to contend with soldiers, but now begins the war with the people. Surprises of single orderlies, small detachments, provision wagons, and field posts are the order of the day. Every tree, it may be said, is now inhabited, not by a charming dryad, but by a blue-bloused Franco-tireur, who stands behind and fires the treacherous bullet at every Prussian. The Franco-tireurs have ceased to be a distinct class;

every peasant, every artisan, is a Franco-tireur." After referring to the difficulty thus attending military operations, the dangers to which the communication between the three separately marching corps is exposed, and the destruction of the roads, the writer mentions that Villeneuve had been subjected to a contribution of 1,600f., and Joigny to one of 8,000f., for having offered resistance, and that four Franco-tireurs at Villecein were captured and shot. In a suburb of Nemours several houses were burnt on account of forty-seven Uhlans having been surprised at night, and several killed or captured, through the inhabitants having given information of their presence to Franco-tireurs." Another correspondent, who describes the Grand Duke of Mecklenburg's movements as resembling a corkscrew, owing to the uncertain tactics of the enemy, says: "Our soldiers will give no quarter, and their exasperation knows hardly any forbearance when they see the peasants in the battle or marching in troops in their blue smocks, with the lace of the Mobile Guard on their trousers. They know that they are the men who daily shoot down their comrades from an ambush, and therefore make short work with them."

NOTES AND INCIDENTS.

An inhabitant of Chamdôtre writes thus to one of his friends at Lyons:—"I am sixty-two years of age; I have three sons in the different levies; I am about to shoulder my rifle as a Franco-tireur. How can we make peace after such sights? They will last us a hundred years. Next spring I shall be dead or in Germany. Good night; the house is burnt."

The Emperor Napoleon's pamphlet, under the name of the Marquis Gricourt, just published at Brussels, eulogises the Emperor Napoleon's peaceful policy, and throws the blame of the war on the French nation.

At Strasbourg the restoration of the houses injured or demolished during the siege has been for the present forbidden, as the streets are to be laid out on a different plan. The savings-bank has been opened, and was thronged on the first day by 1,800 persons. Postal communication with Switzerland, Belgium, and German Lorraine is regularly established in Alsace, and three trains run daily to Mulhausen and Basle. Collections are being made for the French prisoners in Germany, and a delegate has been despatched from Strasbourg with a large collection of shirts and shoes. This is, of course, a manifestation of French sympathies.

The honorary secretary of the Manchester Ladies Committee for the Relief of the Sick and Wounded has received an autograph letter from the Princess Alice, acknowledging the receipt of goods which were transmitted from Manchester in October for the purpose of furnishing one of the wards of the Alice Cross Hospital at Darmstadt, which ward is now called the Manchester Ward. The letter is signed, "Alice, President of the Alice Hospital Committee, Princess Louis of Hesse, and Princess of Great Britain and Ireland." The Princess says that not only are the sick sincerely grateful for the benefits bestowed upon them, but public opinion has been expressed in various quarters acknowledging the excellence of the English gift. It gives the president of the institution the greatest possible pleasure thus to receive a token of active benevolence from her native land.

Among the booty secured by the Germans at Orleans was a herd of 5,000 oxen.

It is related that several Deputies met in council at Tours, on the 5th inst., and plotted a *coup d'état*. Gambetta was to be deposed and a new Government formed. But the object of the conspiracy got wind of the affair, and sent word to the plotters that he had his eye upon them, and if they did not give up their treasonable machinations they should be speedily arrested and imprisoned. The threat is said to have sufficed; there was no reason to doubt that Gambetta would be as good as his word, and several of the gentlemen in question have already left Tours.

An attempt to upset a train has been made near Dornach, in Alsace. The Prussians have inflicted on this town a fine of 25,000 francs.

A letter from Tours says:—"You have read of the plan of camps of concentration, four of which, being round seaports, are to be solidly fortified, to receive each 250,000 men, and to be protected and supplied by the fleet. These camps are to constitute the last refuge of belligerent France. When Paris shall have fallen and D'Aurelle's and other armies have been beaten and scattered, there will still be a million of fighting men, drilling and preparing to take the field. Such, at least, is the intention of the Tours Government."

The special correspondent of the *Daily News* in Brittany says that the resignation of M. de Kératry has produced a painful impression throughout that part of France, and that everyone there condemns the Tours Government for the act which occasioned it, the nomination of a ship's captain to the command in chief of the Armies of the West. It is certain that the Count had won the affections of the Bretons, who are exceedingly ill-pleased at the way he has been treated by the Government. According to the Count's story, during his command, represented by the Tours newspapers as barren of results, he formed at Conlie and other Breton camps, and in a great measure organised, forty-seven battalions of Breton Mobiles, seven companies of Franco-tireurs, and nine batteries of artillery, as well as installing the camp of Conlie and rendering it impregnable.

King William will, it is said, return home after the capitulation of Paris, even though the war should continue.

A letter from the south of France, dated November 26th, states that the construction of cannon is in

full activity at Toulon and Marseilles. Besides cannon, mitrailleurs are being produced in considerable numbers, and every village feels bound to subscribe for at least one of those weapons; while class and other subscriptions are daily being raised to provide further additions to the national defences.

One of the *Times* correspondents has discovered "the most courageous woman on earth." She was a resident in Villiers, a village subjected to a most terrific fire from the Paris forts during the late sorties; she was the only civilian left in the place, and here was the only house that was not destroyed.

An official report from Versailles states that the last sortie from Paris were undertaken by the depot troops of the line with some Mobiles, in all about 90,000 strong. Before retreating they killed the wounded horses and took with them a portion of the flesh. They had no cavalry, but a numerous artillery.

The Empress Eugenie has invited Dr. Piesse to Chislehurst to take part in a consultation in reference to the formation of a society to aid the French prisoners in the various fortresses in Germany. Many of the prisoners are enduring great suffering from the want of clothing, more particularly in the north, on account of the cold and inclement weather.

Several persons last week went to Havre from Southampton with the expectation of witnessing the expected attack on Havre by the Prussians. Two of them, Mr. Cooksey, a Southampton magistrate, and Mr. Keane, the wharfinger of that port, were viewing the fortifications of Havre on Friday last, when they were apprehended as spies, and for some time their safety was in jeopardy.

The memorial to the Lord Mayor, requesting him to convene a public meeting "to consider the position of France, and the best means of securing an honourable and enduring peace," has received several hundred signatures. The Lord Mayor has declined to call the proposed meeting. Looking at the requisition presented, his lordship remarked that he did not see the name of a single banker to it, nor of any of the gentlemen in the City who usually took a conspicuous part on great public occasions, nor of any of the magistrates of the City except one.

EXTRACTS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

M. GAMBETTA AND THE LOSS OF HIS EYE.—Talking of the members of Government, there is a story told of how M. Gambetta got his *civil creve*. He has lost an eye; they say so, at least, and certainly there is something queer about one of his eyes, but however, this is the story. When a boy, Gambetta was sent by his father to a Jesuits' College, where he was to be educated. It would seem little Gambetta had even then a strong dislike for Jesuits, so he requested his father to withdraw him from that school; his father, however, not hearkening to this request, the boy declared that if he were not taken away by a certain day he would put out one of his eyes. The father did not for an instant believe the lad capable of performing the threat, and did not give the matter a second thought. However, a few days afterwards he received a letter from the principal of the school informing him that the boy had put out one of his eyes. The father went to see his son, but still refused to take him home, upon which young Gambetta declared that unless he did take him home he would put out the other eye. Upon this the father thought it advisable to give in. Gambetta's admirers cite this as an instance of the man's precocious determination and firmness of character; others, however, cannot see in it anything but an evidence of an undisciplined and unruly spirit, which has not improved since. Which opinion is right every one can best settle for himself.—*Letter from Tours.*

EX-FRENCH MINISTERS ON THEIR DEFENCE.—A long and elaborate letter from M. Benedetti to a personal friend has been published, in which the late French Ambassador at the Court of Berlin seeks to exculpate himself from blame with regard to the declaration of war and the subsequent disasters that have accrued to France. He declares that when he was sent to Bms he was engaged for four days in negotiating and in soothing the susceptibilities of the King of Prussia, while endeavouring to obtain the renunciation of the Prince of Hohenzollern of the Crown of Spain. He says, "I can affirm, beyond fear of contradiction, that I successfully carried out my first instructions, and protected peace from the dangers with which it was threatened by the candidature of Prince Leopold, although new demands were made which led us fatally into war." Alluding to the projected treaty, he says, "If, instead of successes, the Prussians had met with reverses, the reputation of the Chancellor of the North could not have outlived an act so outrageously disloyal. But victory covers all eccentricities or excuses them, and fate has not yet spoken its last word. If fortune should again smile on us, if the controversy with Russia should become complicated, certain embassies, such as those of London and Brussels, would appear less prudent than they are now deemed to be; and, perhaps, strong proof would be found that the design to unite Belgium to France is, as I have affirmed, entirely a Prussian conception." The Duc de Gramont has also published explanations, in which he says:—"Neither France nor its Government had any thought of attacking Prussia. Only legitimate guarantees were claimed, and the King resused all these, with the preconcerted design of making war. The unjust aggression came from Prussia. France was driven into war against its will."

A JOCKEY CLUB DINNER IN PARIS.—Some members of the Paris Jockey Club determined a few days since to have a *diner de siege*, comprising all the re-

cently adopted elements of food. The famous epicure, Baron Brisse, was entrusted with the preparation of the menu, which consisted of the following items:—*Hors d'œuvre*, radishes, herring *mariné*, onions à la Provençale, slightly salt butter, gherkins, and olives. First course.—Soup of slightly-salted horse, with vegetables; ass-flesh cutlets, with carrots; mule's liver *sauté aux champignons*; horse's lights, with white sauce; carp à la matelotte; fried gudgeons; celery heads, with seasoning. Second course.—Quarter of dog braised; leg of dog roasted; rats cooked upon the ashes; rat pie, with mushrooms; *Eel à la broche*; salad of celery and small salad. Dessert.—Dutch cheese, apples, pears, marmalade au Kirsch, gâteau d'Italie au fromage de Chester. The banquet, which was served in one of the principal establishments of the Chaussée d'Antin, is stated to have been a complete success.

THE BATTLE-FIELD AT VILLIERS.—There is a park just at the extreme end of the village on the Paris side. Before and all around it raged the battle on both days—the 30th of November and the 2nd of December. The château is officers' quarters. How it suffered! There is scarcely a window sash left in one side of it, and to approach it there is no necessity to make use of the entrance gate. The wall is smashed from top to bottom in a dozen places. I entered near the gate, and the first sight I saw was ten dead Saxons in a row. Their faces were covered, and three of their comrades watched over them. Passing through the park in the direction of Paris, I walked out through an embrasure in the wall, and came upon rising ground. It was one of the hottest parts of the battle-field, and almost the centre of the scene of fighting. Heavens, what a sight! To see the men advancing under fire of the forts, and falling at every step; to see the French and the Saxons amid that horrid din of artillery shooting one another down with chasseur and needle-gun; to hear the "hurrahs" followed by a volley, and as the smoke cleared away to find the lines thinned and living men advancing over the prostrate bodies of dead and dying, was horrible, but nothing like so horrible as the sight of this battle-field, with hundreds of dead lying there in the cold air, the sun shining on their ghastly features and stiff forms, while the cannon on Avron and Nogent were thundering with sounds which shook the earth for miles round. One of the first great groups I came upon was composed of sixty French soldiers. A few Saxons and Wurtembergers lay around them; but the Germans had already removed and laid in their last sleeping-place most of their dead. The centre of the group was formed of a close line of forty-six. You could not have placed a body between any two. They fell shoulder to shoulder just as they had stood to fire. By far the greater number of them were on their backs with their feet to Paris and their heads to Villiers. Alas, it was painfully evident that many of them, and of others whom I saw subsequently, had not died instantaneously, but had lived probably many hours without a hand to lend them succour, and in piercing snow and frost. One poor fellow lay on his face. He had two rifle-wounds in his back. He had partly stripped himself, and he died with a hand on each bullet-hole. Several had taken off their knapsacks and placed them under their heads, and so pillowed, had breathed their last breath. Others clenched their water-bottles in one hand, but had been unable to remove the cork, and died without being able to wet their lips in their last agony. Some, in their sufferings, had burrowed their faces in the thick clay on which they lay, and turned their bloody and earth-stained faces upwards before they expired. Two I saw who had their arms fixed and their fists clenched as if while dying they were engaged in a pugilistic encounter. Only very few were on their sides. These had their knapsacks under their heads. There were men on whose faces beamed the smile of an infant, and whose countenances were like handsome waxwork. The expression of others was that of terrible agony. Every feature was contorted; their legs had been convulsively jerked up until their knees stuck into their stomachs, and their finger and thumb nails had been squeezed until they became riveted into the palms of their hands. Behind, before, and at the corners of this line of forty-six dead men were others, Saxon and French. One had a frightful wound in the face. He had pulled his hands up into his sleeves to warm them, but his cap had fallen off, and the blood clotted on his hair till it was all in bloody mats. Near him was another who had taken a biscuit from his knapsack and the bottle from his side, and had partaken of a little of both. More than one of the slain had died with the hands clasped in prayer; and near one I found a little plaster medallion of the Blessed Virgin. A portion of the edge had been shot off it. The chassepots and needle-guns were still in many a dead man's hand, and lying between his arm and his body. Similar were the sights all over the plateau between Villiers and Brie, and Villiers and Champigny; and among the corpses were knapsacks, helmets, shakoes, bayonets, and many a letter sealed and directed to relatives and friends in Germany and France. Near a cemetery situated on the battle-field itself I saw between 200 and 300 dead French soldiers collected closely together; they had been removed from where they had fallen and collected in that spot for burial. All were Regulars; and a considerable proportion of them were men of at least twenty-five or thirty years of age.—*Times Correspondent with the Saxon Army.*

THE BATTLE OF BAZOUCHE-DES-HAUTES.—A correspondent of the *Times* gives an account of this engagement, which took place on the 1st of December. It was one of the series of battles on the Loire which were still continued up to Saturday.

With the left wing were the Grand Duke of Mecklenburg and the Duke of Meiningen, and it is probable that, before the close of the action, some of the troops under the command of Prince Frederick Charles came to the support of the Grand Duke. The right wing was commanded by General Von der Tann, whose boot was cut open by a rifle-ball as the correspondent was talking to him. Altogether the French fought remarkably well, and, in the opinion of the German officers, showed more *elan* than the troops they have already conquered. Still, they were pushed back between three and four miles altogether, retreating steadily, and holding one position until nearly the end. During the attack on the old castle at Gournay there was certainly a moment when the fortunes of the day were undecided; but, after half-past twelve, although they brought up heavy reserves, they never had a chance of recovering their ground; the most they could hope to do was to lose it as slowly as possible, and in this they succeeded. Considering the forces opposed to them, the result cannot be considered discouraging to the young Republican army. In a postscript dated Dec. 4, 5 a.m., the writer adds:—"The French have fallen back at all points. The left wing captured between 4,000 and 5,000 prisoners and sixteen guns, and finally stormed all the French positions."

BOY SOLDIERS.—After the fighting at Bretoncelles, near the battle-field, two French boys were found in the uniform of the French marine, crying bitterly. One was fifteen and the other sixteen. They had come with 800 men direct from Cherbourg, had arrived at six that morning, had found themselves under fire at ten, and, as one of them piteously remarked, "I was made a soldier against my will; I was brought here against my will; I was made to go into the battle against my will, and I was taken a prisoner against my will; the only thing I have not done against my will was to burn a cartouche; *tenez*, look at my cartouche-box and count the cartridges; there they are all, eighty-four; and look at my gun, I have never in my life fired a shot at an enemy." He added that nearly all his comrades were boys like himself.—*Letter from Tours.*

GAMBETTA'S CHARGES OF TREASON AGAINST BAZAINE.—I hear on good authority, writes a correspondent of the *Daily News*, that Gambetta was not so rash in accusing Bazaine of treason as has generally been imagined. He had in his possession papers of a compromising nature, so far as Bazaine is concerned, the day before Metz capitulated, and I am assured, also, that when the inquiry does take place, an aide-de-camp of one of Bazaine's generals, who, after having repeatedly crossed the Prussian lines on the Marshal's account, at length one day passed them once for ever on his own, and made his way to Tours, will come forward as "Queen's evidence," and produce the most damning proofs of Bazaine's treachery. On the other hand, many people maintain that whatever faults Bazaine may have been guilty of he is a brave man, who saw his country lost and made a desperate effort to save it.

THE COMPLAINTS AGAINST AURELLES DES PALADINES.—Without any disposition to blame General Aurelles des Paladines, who won the only victory the French can claim in this war, I find it difficult to explain his conduct in these last operations. With immense labour, 10,000 men were working at one time, he constructed strong defensive works in front of Orleans—not only close to the town, but a good way beyond it; he armed them with heavy artillery, and everybody supposed that if he sustained a repulse in the field he was determined on defending himself within those fortifications and retaining Orleans and the line of the Loire as his base of operations. A battle comes, in which not one-fifth part of his disposable force is said to have been engaged, and the next thing we hear is that the French are out of Orleans and the Prussians in it. There is something here that needs explanation. Perhaps M. Gambetta's commission may clear up the mystery. One is induced to suspect there must have been some sudden shortcoming or giving way of bodies of troops on this side. It is said the French fought well the first day, less so the second, and badly the third, and this seems likely enough. Fresh troops should have been brought up. It was too much to expect from young soldiers that they would fight equally well for three successive days.—*Times Tours Correspondent.*

THE BALLOON VOYAGE TO NORWAY.—M. A. Le Maout describes in *Le Courrier de l'Europe* the very remarkable recent voyage of two French gentlemen, Messrs. Rollier and Bezier, in a balloon from Paris to the neighbourhood of Christiania, in Norway. They ascended from Paris at a quarter to twelve at night, with a bagful of letters and despatches addressed to various parts of France, England, &c., but at seven a.m. were surprised to find that they were sailing rapidly over the sea. As the balloon gradually descended they sighted, or rather were sighted by, a vessel, which proved to be German, and fired some shots at the balloon, happily, however, without effect. They let fall their bag of letters and despatches, which were picked up by the ship and posted on reaching port, and some of which reached their destination in a damp and mouldy condition. Relieved of this weight, the balloon again ascended, and was lost for some hours in clouds and mists, but about two p.m. the same day the aeronauts descried the tops of some pine-trees, and soon after effected their descent in the midst of a bleak and barren wood, of the locality of which they were in entire ignorance. Having made their way through bushes and underwood, they fortunately discovered the walls of an unroofed hovel, and inside it the remains of some potatoes. These they were only too glad to eat, being half dead with cold and hunger, and they slept within the roofless walls for

some twenty hours before they felt strong enough to pursue their journey. Getting under way once more, they found some villagers, to whom they made known by signs, and by drawing a balloon on paper, the strange route by which they had come thither. The natives sent for the village pastor and for another person who could speak a little French, when they were told that they were in Norway. The visitors were most kindly and hospitably treated as persons who had literally come down from the skies, and they were forwarded, together with their balloon and apparatus, on sledges to Christiania, a distance of one hundred leagues. On reaching the capital the presence of these voyagers created the greatest sensation; fêtes were improvised in their honour, mothers held up their children to see the brave Frenchmen who had come down from the clouds, and the people raised loud cries of "France for ever." They did even more than this, for they gave some tangible proofs of their sympathy for France by raising a subscription on behalf of the wounded French, which in three or four days reached some 24,000*fr.* The aeronauts, adds M. Le Maout, gave their balloon to the University of Christiania, where it is being exhibited, the proceeds of the exhibition being destined to be given to the sick and wounded. Messrs. Rollier and Bezier, who are both young men, under thirty, and married, reached London a few days afterwards by the North Star, and have gone back by way of St. Malo to Tours and the south of France, which appears to have been their original destination, though on reaching a higher altitude the wind blew them 700 leagues in an entirely opposite direction from Paris. Their exploit, says M. Le Maout, has been already celebrated in verse by the greatest living Norwegian poet, M. Jonas Lie.

THE PARISIAN DINNER.—In ordinary times, when all Europe laid itself under contribution to enable Paris to dine sumptuously, with the majority of Parisians their dinner formed the serious occupation of the day; and even now, with empty larders and a girdle of half-a-million Prussians encircling us to prevent our replenishing them, the menu is still a matter of the gravest consideration. We have indulged in dishes which the gourmets of the Anthropological Society of London might well envy: bear, buffalo, and bison; yak, elk, and reindeer; ostrich, swan, and cassowary; dog, cat, rat, and guinea-pig—not to mention mule and ass. In a very few days, however, we shall all be constrained to revert to "the noblest conquest ever made by man over Nature," as Buffon grandly puts it; the supply of which is believed to be still considerable. Of course, after having devoured your three days' rations at a single sitting, even if you restrict yourself to one meal per diem, you have to dine at a restaurant until your rationing day comes round again, and in this case require to exercise some discretion with respect to the establishment you patronise. If your purse is sufficiently long to admit of your expending a napoleon on wine to every franc's worth of animal food you consume, the entire resources of Paris will be open to you at Bignon's or Brebant's, while you may be quite certain that those restaurants which offer you "filet Chateaubriand and filet de bœuf aux champignons" *ad libitum* simply serve you "la viande de cheval" under this assumed guise. Customers feeling perfectly satisfied of this will jocularly order "un filet de cheval sans sel [selle]." Indeed, this almost universal consumption of horseflesh has given rise to endless pleasantries. When the Government first decided to fix the price of horse, people inquired whether it would be by the hour or by distance, and it has been recently suggested to change the habitual formula "Monsieur est servi" into "Monsieur à cheval." Only the other day I observed three slaughtered horses being delivered, between the lights, as we say, at the Grand Hotel. The celebrated table d'hôte at this establishment having been but poorly attended for weeks past, one has observed a standing advertisement in the newspapers to the effect that "any respectably dressed person will be admitted to dine there at eight francs per head, wine not included," apparently anticipating a rush of blouses at this figure. Eight francs per head for unquestionable horseflesh, the prime parts of which are sold by Government decrees at 9*d.* per lb., looks very like famine prices. At certain restaurants strangers are politely informed that dinners are only served to the regular clientèle who have handed over their ration-cards to the proprietor; and at the établissements de bouillon, where most of the Garde Mobile dine when not on duty at the ramparts or the advanced forte, and which on this account appear to be favoured as regards their meat supply, a notice has appeared for weeks past over their doors warning customers that by order of the authorities only one plate of meat will be supplied to each person—said plate, too, consisting of certainly not more than half a dozen mouthfuls.—*Letter in Pall Mall Gazette, Nov. 29.*

CHARACTERISTICS OF FRENCH AND GERMAN WOUNDED.—It is observed in hospitals where wounded and dying soldiers of the French and German armies are lying side by side, that the former do not bear pain so well as the latter. They scream and howl where the Germans will not utter a sound. The German soldier's fortitude in this instance is owing to the awe he stands in of his superiors. But when the overwhelming terrors of inevitable death are upon them the Germans' training breaks down, and they give the most unmistakable signs of terror. The Frenchman, on the contrary, generally shows the greatest coolness and unconcern.—*Letter from Orleans.*

THE LATE COMMANDER OF THE LOIRE ARMY.—My most discreet, sedate, and excellent *Elberfelder Zeitung*, in its number of December 2, gravely states

that General D'Aurelles de Paladine is neither more nor less than—whom do you think?—"The Duke of Nemours, second son of Louis Philippe, and uncle of the Count of Paris, who has assumed this *nom de guerre*." The General will be surprised to hear it. He has, indeed, changed his name, or, at all events, he did not always rejoice in his present style. If I am not mistaken, he was Brigadier in the Crimea as plain Aurelles, without the "de," and the title "de Paladine" was not then used.—*Letter in the Times.*

THE DESPERATION OF THE FRENCH PEOPLE.—The Tours correspondent of the *Telegraph* says:—"So far as man can see, there are but two issues to the present struggle. Either Prussia will stamp out France, as Russia did Poland; or France will drive Prussia out of France. After innumerable defeats and humiliations, after losing in the most ignominious manner larger armies than were ever known in history to become prisoners, France believes she has found a man who can so reorganise her forces as to deserve, if not insure, victory. That man is Gambetta, whom, right or wrong, France has tacitly agreed to obey for the present. So far, much that went badly, now goes well. France may or may not succeed; but one thing is certain—she is getting every day more able to compete with her enemy. Let her drive him out *et puis nous verrons*. Let her fail, and she has still three years' fight left in her. Such is the present position and determination of the nation, and out of it you won't move them. 'They mean fighting, sir, and they mean nothing else.' French parents are not behind those of other countries in their love for their children. Yet I yesterday met at a house I was visiting a widow lady of gentle blood who lost one son at Woerth, whose second son is a prisoner in Germany, and whose third son by his age—he is barely seventeen—and the fact of his being the only one left a widowed mother, would have been exempt, at any rate for four years, from joining the army, but he had, with his mother's full consent and approval, enrolled himself as a private in a regiment which he joins to-day. 'It is hard, very hard,' said his mother, 'but I must let him go; France demands the sacrifice.' Can you conquer such a people? I think not—at any rate not unless you exterminate them. I say distinctly that, so far as France and her immense resources in men, money, and the arms she can get from abroad are concerned, the war is now only commencing—and that even the fall of Paris would not have the effect of stopping the struggle."

A PRUSSIAN SPY GETTING INTO PARIS.—The *Main Zeitung* of December 10 gives the following extract from a field-post letter received from a Wiesbadener, dated Viroflay, November 28:—"An officer of Hussars proposed to get into Paris, and managed to do so in the following wise. He dressed himself in the ordinary garb of a peasant, and by the aid of a moustache à la Napoléon, coupled with a perfect knowledge of the French tongue, managed to slip through our outposts. When he had passed the outermost lines, our forepost lost no time in having a shot at him, but of course in the air. The French, on the other hand, naturally concluded that he was a countryman. By the aid of a plausible tale he soon found himself within the walls of Paris. Out he came in the greatest glee that he had succeeded in evading the vigilance of the French outposts. He was the bearer of interesting tidings from Paris, not the least important of which was that in the laboratories there was no more saltpetre with which to make gunpowder."

FRENCH REFUGEES IN ENGLAND.

At a meeting on Friday of the subscribers to the Refugees Benevolent Fund, held at the Mansion House, Captain Fitzroy, the hon. secretary of the British Charitable Fund, in his report to the committee, stated that he could not anticipate any reduction in the weekly expenditure of the society, which had hitherto been on an average about 70*l.* The Hon. Lucy Kerr, reporting upon the work of the ladies' committee, stated that from October 27 to the end of November they had sent out 668 servants to 595 places, had had applications for 650 servants and from 265 servants for places, and had placed 150; and had found work for 21 needlewomen and were in treaty for more. There were 176 governesses on the register, and 118 had been applied for. Twenty-six persons received weekly pensions amounting in the whole to about 16*l.* weekly. The home at Westminster, which held 10 or 11 persons, had cost for food, &c., an average of only 8*s.* 6*d.* per head per week, while the home at Bayswater, which could accommodate 28 to 30, cost per head about 7*s.* 6*d.* Both homes were lent rent free. Mr. Bennoch said Mr. Knight, the general manager of the Brighton Railway Company, had informed him that on Wednesday, in the middle of the night, 300 refugees from Normandy arrived at London-bridge; 95 per cent. of these did not understand a word of English, and had no homes. Fires were lighted in the waiting-rooms, and they were made comfortable till the morning, but as soon as daylight appeared they gradually melted away into the street without perhaps a home for the next night or a friend in the country.

WAR VICTIMS' FUND.

A meeting of the promoters of this fund, who desire to relieve the non-combatant sufferers in the present war, was held on Wednesday at the Mansion House. Amongst the gentlemen present were Mr. Sturge, Mr. C. Gilpin, M.P., Mr. R. N. Fowler, M.P., and a number of the members of the Society of Friends. The Lord Mayor was to have presided,

but, being detained by a case in the Justice Room, Mr. J. H. Barclay took the chair, and called upon

Mr. CROSSFIELD, chairman of the general committee, who stated that the Society of Friends had raised 16,000*l.*, and had found nine gentlemen who volunteered at their own cost to examine the state of suffering that existed and administer the relief.

Mr. JONES, one of the agents, then gave a description of the scenes he had visited in the neighbourhood of Metz. The distress he found in many of the villages was terrible to think of, resulting first from the French and then the German occupation. The peasant proprietors were ruined. In one case the people had no shelter but the collars of their former houses, and even the curé had not a blanket, and slept in the only suit of clothes he had left. A young woman confessed with evident reluctance that she had eaten nothing for six weeks but the Prussian black bread. These poor people were not only deprived of all they had, but of their means of future subsistence; their horses and cattle, and even their seed corn, being taken away, and 100,000 acres of land suitable for wheat-growing had no chance of cultivation.

Mr. ROBERT SPENCE WATSON, solicitor, said he had visited fifty-three villages, and taken down the statements of curés, maires, and others—the results exhibiting an appalling amount of desolation, and yet much mutual charity on the part of the poor people. At Château Salins, after the village had been left without a particle of food, the mayor had, by raising subscriptions, got a little food and seed corn together, when the Germans heard of it, sent another requisition, and swept it all away. The miseries inflicted on the peasantry when their villages were burnt, often in the middle of the night, "for strategic reasons," could hardly be described. The work of charity awaiting to be done could be done by England only.

Mr. BECK, the secretary, read a letter received from another of the agents of the association just arrived at Metz. This gentleman had returned from a tour amongst the distressed villages with a couple of wagons laden with stores. He gave a pitiful description of the misery he had witnessed, than which perhaps nothing was more touching than a description of a group of poor little children cowering in the doorway of a roofless house, their faces pinched with starvation and blue with cold. Another letter from an agent, Mr. Thomas Whitwell, gave a description of the terrible state of Thionville.

Mr. HOWARD, another gentleman who has just returned, gave a further account of the operations of the association—of the pressing necessity for extending their scope and for investigating the state of outlying districts.

Mr. C. GILPIN, M.P., in rising to move a vote to the Lord Mayor, read a letter from Miss Florence Nightingale, who, while sending 20*l.* to the War Victims' Fund, said:—

I wish it was ten times as much! In this most terrible of all earthly wars, in the countless horrors of this most horrible of mankind's history, I believe the sufferings of the starving, stripped, and burnt-out peasants are the greatest horrors of all. England will have to do all she can. I need hardly say how desirable it is to employ the poor women on the spot—round Metz, and round Sedan, too—to make up part of the clothing given away, and pay them for their work.

Mr. R. N. FOWLER, M.P., seconded the motion.

The motion was carried, and the proceedings then terminated.

THE EDUCATION ACT.

The London School Board elect their chairman to-morrow afternoon. There are understood to be four candidates—Lord Lawrence, M.P., Mr. Torrens, M.P., Mr. Reed, M.P., and Professor Huxley.

On Monday evening a meeting was held at the Lambeth Baths for the purpose of expressing sympathy with Mr. G. M. Murphy on his having failed to obtain a seat at the Lambeth election for the London School Board. Handel Cossam, Esq., was in the chair, and expressed his regret that a representative man like Mr. Murphy, who had so great a practical knowledge of the district, should not have been returned. If he had been fairly beaten there was nothing to be said; but it was at least unfortunate that at the first election for the London School Board there should be doubts of the fairness of its proceedings; and there was some ground for believing that in Mr. Murphy's case many votes were not properly given, and some improperly recorded. This showed that, however advantageous, the ballot was not all-powerful to secure complete purity of election, inasmuch as on this occasion it did not prevent the giving of irregular votes, and the same person voting over again. On the whole, he was satisfied with the constitution of the London School Board, particularly as it had happened that sectarianism was not in the ascendant there. He was for the education of every child in this country, and if by no other means he would not be disinclined to resort to compulsion. Some strong resolutions, expressing sympathy with Mr. Murphy, condemning the course taken by his opponents to prevent his election, and urging that even the ballot had been abused, were moved and agreed to.

At a meeting held on Friday evening at Kingston-on-Thames a resolution in favour of establishing a School Board for the borough was lost by a majority of six.

The election of eleven burgesses to act as a School Board for Swansea has resulted in the return of four Churchmen (one of whom headed the poll by a large majority), one Independent minister, one Roman

Catholic, one Calvinistic Methodist, one Wesleyan, one Baptist, one Unitarian, and one Methodist. The vicar was one of the elected Church candidates. There were sixty-two persons nominated, out of which number only sixteen went to the poll.

At the election of the School Board at Aberystwith the following stood at the head of the poll:—The Rev. E. Owen Phillips (vicar), 841; Mr. Thomas Jones, 795; Mr. Lewis Pugh Pugh, 747 (all Churchmen); Mr. John Williams, 679; Mr. William H. Thomas, 628; Mr. David Charles, 613; Mr. Peter Jones, 544; Mr. W. H. Rowse, 496 (the last five being Nonconformists). The first seven were elected.

In a letter to the *Inquirer*, the Rev. H. W. Crosskey shows that though only four of the Education League candidates were elected for Birmingham, the whole fifteen had a majority of the voters on their side. "The lowest of the Liberal fifteen is," he says, "more than a thousand above the highest of the eight on the Church list; and six of the successful candidates are beaten by the unsuccessful candidates by upwards of fifty per cent. of actual voters. The cumulative system of voting gave in Birmingham no less than fifteen votes to each burgess, and by its operation the Catholics, who only polled 3,171 votes, placed their candidate at the head of the list, while eight Liberal candidates were defeated, although a large proportion of actual electors desired their return. Taking the general results of the elections, it remains for the consideration of the country whether the effect of the cumulative system will not be to give the intensest sectarian organisation the greatest power, and to hand over the charge of education in many districts to those who are most obedient to the nod of the priest, and most dependent on parochial charities."

The Chesterfield Town Council have resolved, with only two dissentients, to apply to the Educational Department for authority to constitute a School Board.

A very numerously attended conference of delegates from the various Nonconformist churches and schools in Bath and its vicinity has just pronounced in favour of a School Board, as likely to most effectually promote elementary education in the district. The Bath Working Men's Reform Association has also been discussing the Act, and agreed upon a memorial to the City Council, signed by Mr. R. Passmore Edwards. A second memorial to a like effect is being signed by the principal magisterial, clerical, and literary inhabitants of the city.

A large meeting was held at St. Germans, Cornwall, on Friday, when it was stated that there was ample school accommodation in the parish. Mr. Geake, who introduced the subject at some length, believed that the voluntary system would continue to produce sufficient funds. The great difficulty was getting the children to school, and Government had provided the machinery of a School Board, which they could have without adopting the rate clause in the Act. Ultimately it was decided to appoint a School Board, and to continue the voluntary system. At a private meeting held at Paignton, Devon, on Friday, the advocates of a School Board and rate carried their point, but a poll was demanded. Public meetings at Truro, Redruth, and Camborne have decided in favour of the voluntary principle.

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON.

The following candidates have passed the recent examinations:—

Examinations in the Hebrew text of the Old Testament, in the Greek text of the New Testament, in the evidences of the Christian religion, and in Scripture history:—

FURTHER EXAMINATION.—Second class.—Charles Richard Cecil, private study.

FIRST EXAMINATION.—First class.—George Gillanders Findlay (prize), Wesleyan College, Richmond. Second class.—Robert M'William, private study; John Wilkins, private study.

B.S. EXAMINATION.—Pass List.—First Division.—Charles Henry Carter, B.A., University College; Rushton Parker, University College; James Reginald Stocker, Guy's Hospital.

M.D. EXAMINATION.—Pass List.—Bryan Holme Allen, University College; *Evan Buchanan Baxter, King's College; John De Liefde, Guy's Hospital; Ethelrid Desag, University College; William Richard Gowers (gold medal), University College; John Grimes, B.Sc., King's College; John Harward Hooper, M.S., St. Thomas's Hospital; Henry Franklin Parson, St. Mary's Hospital; Edwin Rayner, B.A., University College and Paris; *Frederick Thomas Roberts, B.Sc., University College; *Frederick Taylor, Guy's Hospital.

LOGIC AND MORAL PHILOSOPHY ONLY.—Frederick Harry Haynes, St. Bartholomew's Hospital; Herbert Lumley Snow, Queen's Birm. and University College; George Christopher Taylor, St. Bartholomew's Hospital.

B.S. EXAMINATION.—EXAMINATION FOR HONOURS.—Second class.—Charles Henry Carter, B.A., University College, Rushton Parker, University College, and James Reginald Stocker, Guy's Hospital, equal.

* Obtained the number of marks qualifying for the medal.

A country editor consoled a man who complained that justice had not been done him by the remark that it was "very lucky for him."

Court, Official, and Personal News.

The Queen paid a visit to Lady Clarendon, at Grove House, Watford, on Saturday, going and returning by special train.

On Saturday the Prince and Princess Christian, the Prince and Princess of Teck, the Duchess of Roxburghe, Lady Buchanan, and Sir Stafford Northcote dined with the Queen.

Prince Arthur is on a visit to Windsor Castle, and will shortly proceed to Sandringham.

The Prince and Princess of Wales arrived in London on Saturday from visiting the Duke and Duchess of Marlborough at Blenheim Palace. On the preceding evening the Duke and Duchess gave a grand ball in their honour, to which the *élite* of the neighbourhood and members of the University, with their wives and daughters, and several of the fellow-commoners and under-graduates, were invited.

Mr. Disraeli and Viscountess Beaconsfield have left Hughenden Manor for Strathfieldsaye, on a visit to the Duke and Duchess of Wellington. It is said that the right hon. gentleman will "shortly" make a tour through the United States.

Sir Roderick Murchison has greatly rallied, and he is now out of danger.

Sir Charles Dilke has left England for Russia. He will remain in St. Petersburg till Christmas.

Mr. Hammond, writing on behalf of Earl Granville to the Mayor of Birmingham, acknowledging the receipt of a resolution passed at a public meeting there, says:—"I am to inform you, in reply, that Her Majesty's Government are earnestly desirous to maintain peace with Russia by all possible means compatible with the honour and interests of this country."

Mr. Thomas Brassey, the well-known railway contractor, died on Thursday, at St. Leonard's-on-Sea, where he had recently been staying for the benefit of his health. The immediate cause of death was asthma, from which he has suffered for some years. His death was unexpected.

Lord Winchilsea's bankruptcy was to have been the subject of investigation on Thursday, but the noble Earl was unable to attend in consequence of a severe attack of gout. An adjournment was therefore ordered. The debts are about 11,000*l*.

Mr. MacDowell has resigned his membership of the Royal Academy, on account of ill health.

Foreign and Colonial.

RUSSIA AND THE PARIS TREATY.

The French Government has unconditionally accepted the proposal for a Conference on the Black Sea question. France is said to have tried to enlarge the scope of the proposed Conference on the Black Sea question, but this was countenanced neither in London nor St. Petersburg, as the Conference itself would thereby be endangered. The invitations for the Conference will be issued by the British Government.

Count Bismark has communicated to the Federal Council an *exposé* on the Black Sea question, with documents; inviting it to manifest its opinion with regard to the German interests concerned in the matter. A similar communication will be made to the Parliament of the North German Confederation. Prussia says that not having signed the treaty guaranteeing the integrity of Turkey, she is not actually bound to interfere in the present instance, but ought to be solely guided by her interests. The Conference will have to occupy itself only with the abolition of Articles 11 and 14 of the Treaties of Paris. Prussia and Turkey adhere to the proposal only on this understanding.

From Constantinople it is reported that the Ottoman Government remains deaf to the solicitations of General Ignatieff, tending towards a private arrangement with Russia before the meeting of the Conference. A despatch from that city says:—"The fleet is under immediate orders for service, and a complete system of torpedoes has been organised, under the direction of the American Captain Edendorough. Generals Sheridan and Forsyth left Constantinople for Versailles, by way of Brindisi, on Saturday. They have expressed themselves well satisfied with the efficiency of the Ottoman Army. A considerable number of Russian agents are very active among the Slavonic sympathisers in the Ottoman empire. The Greeks still hold aloof."

A telegram from Pera in the *Daily Telegraph*, dated the 10th inst., says:—"General Ignatieff, the Russian Ambassador at the Porte, yesterday had an interview with Ali Pasha, the Minister of Foreign Affairs. The interview is understood to have been of a very unsatisfactory character. The demands for annulment of the stipulation, made in Prince Gortschakoff's circular of the 31st of October are strongly and persistently pressed. But our Ambassador, Mr. Elliott, has assumed and maintains the most energetic attitude in opposition to the Russian claims."

Count Beust's reply to Prince Gortschakoff's last note was despatched on the 8th inst. It refutes in detail the arguments brought forward by Prince Gortschakoff, but is couched in a conciliatory tone, and regards the Russian despatch as calculated to lead to an understanding.

All the American envoys in Europe have been instructed to refrain from any collective step of the Powers in the Eastern or Franco-German questions.

PRUSSIA AND LUXEMBOURG.

Count Bismark has issued a circular, dated 3rd December, to the co-signatories of the Treaty of London, concluded in May, 1867, to the effect that, Luxembourg having refused to allow the transit of wounded Germans, having suffered the re-victualling of Thionville from her territory, having omitted to secure French fugitives—Prussia, in regard to the movement of German troops, is disengaged from the obligation to respect the neutrality of Luxembourg.

The Luxembourgers are bestirring themselves vigorously to resist annexation to Germany. It is believed in Brussels that the Grand Duchy will be immediately occupied, the reason assigned for the act being that it is a military necessity. France, it is said, receives active and valuable aid from the Luxembourg territory by the furnishing of supplies to the francs-tireurs; while many hundreds of French prisoners of war are said to have made their escape through the proximity of the so-called neutral territory. The correspondent of the *Telegraph* at Brussels is informed that the troops destined to resume possession of Luxembourg will come straight from Germany, and thus no diminution in the forces already in the field against the French will be caused.

The principal Vienna journals speak most emphatically against the proceedings of Prussia in regard to Luxembourg. The *New Free Press* refutes all the arguments adduced in the Prussian Note, and designates the policy as arrogant. The *Tages Presse* calls upon the signatories of the Luxembourg Neutrality Treaty together to rise against such a contemptuous policy, which makes valueless all rights secured by treaty.

GERMANY.

The letter in which the King of Bavaria proposes that the King of Prussia should assume the Imperial Crown of Germany has now been published. It is addressed to the King of Saxony, and it invites His Majesty and the other German Princes to urge King William to take the title of Emperor. The King of Bavaria says it is for him a sublime thought that he can thus take the first step towards crowning the edifice of German unity.

In Friday's sitting of the North German Parliament, the third reading of the Federal Treaties was discussed. The treaties with Baden and Hesse were sanctioned, only the social Democrats voting against them. That with Wurtemberg was likewise adopted, and the treaty with Bavaria, as well as the final protocol of each treaty, was then sanctioned, 135 members voting in their favour, and about thirty members belonging to the Progressist party and to the Social Democrats voting adversely.

At an evening sitting of the North German Parliament on Saturday the bill by which the words "Empire" and "Emperor" are inserted in the Constitution was read a third time by 188 ayes against six noes. After this the address to the King, proposed by Herr Lasker, was approved, the social Democrats alone voting against it. A deputation of thirty members was elected to present the address to His Majesty. The session was then declared to be closed.

It is stated that King Ludwig of Bavaria is to proceed in great state to Versailles, to offer to King William the title of Emperor.

On Saturday the bill substituting the word "Empire" for "Confederation," and the word "Emperor" for "King," was passed through two readings without any discussion. Herr Delbrück explained that other alterations might be necessary, and would be made in the next Reichstag.

A petition was presented from the Mayor of Königsberg to the Chancellor of the Bund, praying that he would inquire into the illegal proceedings taken by General Von Falckenstein against Dr. Jacoby. The petition was vigorously discussed, the Conservatives declaring themselves against the presentation of any such petition during the war, and the Socialists also opposing the petition on the ground that it was useless. The petition was finally carried by a small majority.

At the evening sitting the Bill substituting the Empire for the Confederation passed the third reading by 188 votes against 6. An address to the King was proposed by Herr Lasker, and was not discussed, being carried by 191 against 6. Some discussion arose with respect to the manner in which the address should be transmitted; but the final resolution was that it should be sent to Versailles by a deputation of thirty deputies, chosen by lot. The Reichstag was then dissolved by order of the King.

Upon the King of Prussia assuming the Imperial dignity in a few weeks the Crown Prince and Crown Princess will probably be called "Imperial Highness." All Federal officials will be called Imperial officials, instead of Royal as hitherto.

ITALY.

A telegram from Florence to the *Times* gives an account of the measures to be taken for carrying out the programme of a free church in a free state in Italy. The Pope is guaranteed his sovereign rights, allowed to retain his guards, and provided with an income of 3,255,000*l*. He keeps the Vatican, the Church of Santa Maria Maggiore, Castel Gandolfo, and their dependencies; and these are exempted both from taxes and common law jurisdiction. The same immunity is extended to any temporary presidency of the Pope, or Conclave, or Council. The Pope's correspondence is to be free. Even in pursuit of criminals, neither visits nor searches are to

be allowed. The Pope is to be free to establish at the Vatican a post and telegraph office, choosing his own officials. The Papal despatches, couriers, and telegrams are to be conveyed as those of foreign governments. Councils will require no preliminary permission for meeting. The Pope may prefer to benefices without Royal permission. The oath of the bishops to the King, the Royal placet, the Exequatur are abolished. The seminaries and other Catholic institutions will derive their authority from the Holy See alone, without any interference from the Italian scholastic authorities.

The committee appointed to examine the bill for the transfer of the capital to Rome met on Monday. Some of the deputies demanded that the transfer should be more promptly effected. Signor Lanza said:—"The question is a purely technical one; if, however, the majority of the members believed that the period before the transfer might perhaps be shortened, he should adhere to their views." After some other members had spoken of the material difficulties attendant upon the transfer, the committee approved the first clause with an amendment of Signor Serotti that the transfer should be made between this time and the 31st March, 1871.

SPAIN.

The intelligence from Florence of the offer of the Spanish Crown and its acceptance by the Duke d'Aosta has been received at Madrid. Though tranquillity prevailed, violent attacks upon General Prim and the Government constantly appear in the Carlist, Republican, and Montpensier press.

King Amadeus and his consort start for Madrid on the 23rd of December.

Ex-Queen Isabella has published a protest from Geneva against the infraction of Prince Alfonso's rights. At the same time Her Majesty repudiates all idea of forcible resistance to the choice.

UNITED STATES.

A letter in the *Times*, from a correspondent in Philadelphia, who writes on November 22nd, says:—"Whatever may be the Russian designs in desiring a change in the Treaty of 1856, I do not think the United States Government is in any way privy to them. There is no understanding, open or secret, as seems to be surmised in Europe, between St. Petersburg and Washington, by which the Americans are to press the Alabama question, and thus keep England engaged while Russia carries out her schemes in the East. The United States, from traditional policy, avoid all foreign alliances or interference. During the Crimean war the bulk of American sympathy was against Russia, and so it probably would be were a war to arise out of the present complication. But the fact of that complication will not lead the Government either to press or to avoid the Alabama question, and if Russia is counting to any extent upon American aid her reliance is weak indeed. The President desires to have the Alabama question reopened, but he will make no move in the matter until he has a new Minister firmly seated in his place in London; nor will it then in any way depend either upon the movements or the wishes of Russia. The American policy of keeping entirely clear of European entanglements is to be strictly maintained."

The American correspondent of the *Times* devotes a great portion of a recent letter to General Butler. The writer says that Mr. Butler's tirades against England have attracted profound and general attention, but it should be known abroad that the comments made by the American press are, with scarcely an exception, unfavourable to the warlike doctrines expressed. The American people are unwilling to be forced into a war with England, and they would decidedly object to Mr. Butler's non-intercourse suggestion. America has too many interests depending on the maintenance of a prosperous trade with England, to permit either non-intercourse or anything else tending to war to interfere with the profits. The cotton and corn growers, the great railways and other transportation lines connecting the West with the seaboard, the entire inland, coastwise, and foreign mercantile and shipping interests, the free-traders and revenue reformers, would all be arrayed against General Butler's plan. While he pretends to represent the President, there are very good reasons to doubt whether that gentleman, even to secure party success or his own reelection, would adopt any of the desperate methods announced in General Butler's Boston address. A report has reached America that Mr. John Bright may visit the country as a British envoy charged with the settlement of the Alabama controversy. Whether well-founded or not, this report has caused a universal expression of satisfaction, and the warm friend of the Union during the war would be sure of a welcome. Our people have an idea, too (the *Times* correspondent adds), that Mr. Bright might incline more favourably to the American view of the controversy than almost any one else that England would send.

CANADA.

The Canadian press ridicule General Grant's threatened retaliatory policy. The Toronto *Globe* reminds the Americans that the abolition of the Reciprocity Treaty was their own act, avowedly to reprove and punish Canada, and declares that just rights must be asserted. It adds:—"It is cowardly to threaten Canada only, when England is equally interested in and responsible for the protection of the fisheries. General Grant should therefore exclude British as well as Canadian vessels from his ports. The St. Lawrence is only navigable by aid of the canals constructed by Canadian enterprise. It

is too much to ask us to rectify the geographical difficulties of the Western States without an equivalent." The *Globe* advocates measures of reciprocity, conceived in a fair and liberal spirit, between Powers that should set the world an example of amity and peace. A leader in the Ministerial paper says:—"We desire to act fairly and liberally towards the American fishermen, but we will not yield to threats that which cannot be demanded as right." The *Montreal Gazette* (Ministerial paper), in discussing President Grant's message, shows the inconsistency of the President's complaints with the Treaty of 1818, and says that the fishery rights must be maintained. It adds that Canada is always ready to enter into arrangements for a settlement of all matters in dispute, but cannot submit to a demand of the stand-and-deliver order. The *Montreal Herald and Independent* says that the enforcement of the fishery law is the exercise of an extreme right, but trusts that there will be sufficient good temper and right feeling on both sides to get over the existing difficulties.

The Ontario Legislature was opened on Wednesday. The Lieutenant-Governor congratulated the House on the increased prosperity of the province and the large accumulated surplus, and recommended that grants should be made in aid of railways and other enterprises. He also recommended educational improvement and liberal aid to immigration; and alluded, in conclusion, to the happiness of the connection between Canada and Great Britain.

CHINA.

A telegram, dated Pekin, Nov. 26, was received at the Foreign Office yesterday, from Mr. Wade, stating that all was quiet in China, and that the foreign residents remained to winter at Pekin as usual.

According to the *Overland China Mail*, the Government of Pekin, having beheaded fifteen persons for participation in the Tientsin massacres, Chung How, a prominent official personage, has been despatched on a mission to Paris in connection with the matter. It is pointed out, however, that while it is very doubtful whether the persons executed had anything to do with the murders, Chung How, the ambassador, was one of those most deeply implicated. He is accompanied in his mission by two French interpreters, and will be, it is said, "carefully watched; but there is now no talk of punishing any of the officials."

A telegram from Tientsin, dated Nov. 28, says:—"There are grave disturbances in Hunan." This is a province of China bounded partly by the Yang-tse-Kiang river, which enters the sea near Shanghai.

FOREIGN MISCELLANY.

It is announced that the celebrated novelist, Alexandre Dumas, died on the 5th inst., at Puy, near Dieppe.

SNOW IN NAPLES.—A tourist writing from Naples on the 3rd says:—"On arriving here two days ago I found the weather like July. Yesterday, however, after a heavy fall of rain in the night, a bitter cold north-east wind set in; last night it froze hard, and to-day it is snowing heavily and lying deep on the ground. Between the snow showers I can see the promontory of Posilippo and the island of Capri, both covered with a white mantle."

THE MASSACRE AT MARATHON.—The arrest of Noel, accused of having been an accomplice of the brigands in the murder of the four English gentlemen at Marathon, some months ago, has been ordered. At the inquiry into the massacre no proof was adduced that any Greek politician or important person was implicated in the affair. Sixty shepherds are committed for trial. The English barristers, who were present during the whole of the inquiry, expressed themselves perfectly satisfied with the proceedings.

THE NOVEMBER METEORS.—The November meteors were watched for on the morning of the 14th at Yale College, Connecticut, by six observers, who counted 153 in four hours and forty minutes. Last year the number was much larger, and in 1868 there were about 7000 seen on one morning by a party of observers. From these observations the inference is drawn that the great meteor stream had this year passed the orbit of the earth at the time of observation in November. This belt of meteoric matter, it has been calculated, is about 1,000 millions of miles long and 50,000 miles thick, spreads over about one-fourth of its orbit, and has a velocity of 100,000 miles an hour. The November meteors, it is believed, will still be visible for several years, but in smaller numbers each year until they disappear entirely, to return again with great splendour in the year 1900.

The Commander-in-Chief at Portsmouth has received a notification that a Japanese naval officer is to be borne on the books of the Duke of Wellington with the rank of sub-lieutenant.

AN ARTFUL BAKER.—The latest novelty in job printing has just been executed by a London printer, who had an order from a baker to print a number of billheads on three different coloured papers, viz., red, green, and white. The object of this, it appears, was to avoid giving instructions to the man who delivered the bread, flour, &c., to the customers. To prevent mistakes, when the bill was made out upon a red paper, it denoted "Danger," and he was not to leave the goods without the cash; if on a green, it denoted "Caution," as the customer was doubtful, and the man was to get the money if he could; if on white, it was safe to leave any quantity.

Postscript.

Wednesday, December 14th, 1870.

THE WAR.

(From the *Times* Correspondent.)

BERLIN, Dec. 13.

The German official *Moniteur de Versailles* contains the following:—"The Tours Government continues publishing false reports from the Loire Army. They say that, excepting some heavy ship guns, not a piece of artillery remained in the hands of the enemy at Orleans, and that the retreat was effected without any loss of men or material. This is rather strong, considering that we have taken 14,000 prisoners and seventy-seven field-guns. The men propagating these arrant lies are the same who wish to be regarded as so many Republican Catos and Aristides. The lawyers of Tours are even worse liars than were the Generals of the Empire."

(From the *Daily Telegraph*.)

BERLIN, Dec. 13.

I understand that the German Government still express doubts as to the possibility of entering into negotiations with the Provisional Government of France—for one reason, on the ground that the French employ officers whom they know to have broken their parole of honour.

Lord Lyons and the other members of the diplomatic body arrived in Bordeaux just before midnight on Sunday last.

THE LUXEMBOURG QUESTION.

(From the *Daily News*.)

BRUSSELS, Dec. 13.

The *Echo du Luxembourg* learns from Versailles that the annexation of Luxembourg to Prussia has been agreed to by England, in order to make Germany abandon her pretensions to part of Lorraine.

The Luxembourgers have petitioned the King of Holland to maintain the independence of the Grand Duchy, and to protest against the contents of the Prussian note.

DISESTABLISHMENT OF THE ENGLISH CHURCH.

(BY TELEGRAPH.)

BIRMINGHAM, Tuesday.

A conference of Nonconformists was held this evening at Carr's-lane Chapel, to consider the question of the disestablishment of the English Church. Mr. J. Carvell Williams, secretary of the Liberation Society, was present, and the attendance was influential; Mr. J. S. Wright presided. The following resolution was passed unanimously:—"That having regard to the present state of public opinion, as well as to the internal condition of the Church of England, this conference is of opinion that Parliament should be called upon to apply to the other Establishment of the kingdom the principle of disestablishment which it has already adopted in regard to Ireland; and it therefore highly approves of the motion to be moved by Mr. Miall, M.P., in the approaching session." It was further agreed to make strenuous efforts to instruct the public mind in the principles of the Liberation Society. It is the intention of the Birmingham Nonconformists to prosecute the agitation thus begun with the utmost vigour.

MARK-LANE.—THIS DAY.

At Mark-lane to-day there was a very thin attendance, and the grain-trade throughout was almost stationary, whilst the few sales effected were at a reduction. There was a limited supply of English wheat on sale, which, owing to the unfavourable weather, came to hand in generally inferior condition. The inquiry for both Essex and Kent produce was dull, at a decline of from 1s. to 1s. per quarter. The arrivals from abroad were only moderate. Transactions were concluded cautiously, at a similar reduction. There was a good supply of barley on offer. Both malting and grinding descriptions were purchased slowly, the former being at a fall of 1s. per quarter. The malt trade was depressed, but values were not quotably lower. There was a moderate show of oats, which could only be disposed of at a decline of 6d. to 1s. per quarter. Beans and peas experienced a great demand, at about Monday's quotations.

THE SMITHFIELD CLUB CATTLE SHOW OF 1870 closed on Friday night. It was about up to the average as regards the number of animals shown, and their excellence of quality; but there was a falling off in the visitors (which will probably reach about 10,000 when the accounts are made up) as contrasted with those of last year. The wretched weather which prevailed with but little intermission through the week, fully accounts for this circumstance.

THE WEATHER.—The snow-storms of last week have been accompanied in Yorkshire by hail and thunder. From Bilsdale, Bransdale, Rosedale, and Eskdale, reports are received of thunderstorms, accompanied with hailstones as "large as walnuts," in places. At Firbeck Head some cattle were killed, and the lightning struck one of the blast-furnace chimneys but passed off by the conductor without doing much harm. The tide along the coast seems to have risen to an unusual height. During Wednesday night the snowfall was heavy, ten inches having settled in the Esk valley. On the high moors it was not so thick. The temperature sank to twenty-four degrees. The weather has now become very mild.

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The Nonconformist.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14, 1870.

SUMMARY.

ANOTHER treaty denounced! In a despatch dated the 3rd inst. Prussia gave formal notice to the signatory Powers that, in consequence of the violation of the Treaty of 1867, by Luxembourg, in sundry particulars which are specified, she no longer holds herself bound to respect the neutrality of that little State "in the movement of her troops." This Note may be intended to pave the way for some transaction involving the annexation of Luxembourg to the German Confederation, but it neither announces that policy nor absolutely repudiates the Treaty. So far as we know, therefore, Count Bismarck does not follow the example of Prince Gortschakoff. The Treaty in question, which was designed to avert war between France and Prussia, placed the neutrality of the Grand Duchy under "the collective guarantee" of the Powers, after which the fortress was evacuated by the German troops and dismantled. Probably the Luxembourgers have in various ways exhibited a leaning during the war towards their French neighbours, with whom they evidently sympathise; but whether they have so far departed from a neutral position as to warrant this formal protest and menace, remains to be proved. If they were willing, the annexation of the Duchy to North Germany would unquestionably be a European benefit. It would get rid of an illusory Treaty, and it would probably induce Count Bismarck to forego the demand for the annexation of any part of Lorraine as one of the conditions of peace. That statesman's object is no doubt to secure a consideration of this subject at the forthcoming Conference in London. The report that our Government are in favour of the annexation, can hardly mean more than that, as a party to the Treaty, they would consent to the voluntary surrender of their independence on the part of the Luxembourgers.

Although after the recapture of Orleans early last week, the French Army of the Loire retreated in good order, it has since been to a considerable extent disorganised. One separated corps after another has been defeated by the Germans, owing to the strategical skill of the Red Prince, and notwithstanding the ability and resolution of General Chanzy, who now commands what remains of the Army of the Loire. Though the Germans boast of having captured 14,000 prisoners and seventy-seven field-guns in the successive engagements which lasted throughout last week, they have suffered heavily in some of the battles. That which took place at Beaugency decided the fate of Tours, or at least obliged the Delegate Government to retire to Bordeaux. Generals Chanzy, Bourbaki, and their brother officers have been so far defeated that they have been obliged constantly to retreat; but there is still a formidable Army of the Loire, and the further advance of the invader towards Bourges and Le Mans is beset with serious difficulties. The *Times* correspondent at Versailles remarks:—"It is to be noted that the losses of the German armies in these last encounters have very much exceeded, *pro rata*, what they lost in the battles in which they overthrew the French Empire and captured its armies. It is felt that a great uprising of the people would be a very serious thing for these armies, strong and deservedly confident as they are. Hence the new orders which will prevent any enrolment of able-bodied men in the occupied dis-

tricts, and a strict watch will be kept on all Frenchmen who could swell the ranks of the enemy. The Germans are now obliged to hang together. They stand in the face of a popular 'insurrection' in some districts." In Northern France, General Mantenfel has not made rapid progress since the fall of Rouen. He did, indeed, occupy Dieppe for one day, and has threatened Cherbourg and Havre. But both these ports are strong in their defences, while a considerable French force from Lille—the remains of the army defeated before Amiens—is operating with effect on the German flank, breaking their communication, and capturing their supplies.

For one day last week, owing to some misapprehension, there seemed the prospect of an armistice being concluded between the belligerents. But M. Gambetta changed his mind, and the terrible war goes on. Accounts from Versailles differ as to the probability of a bombardment of Paris—the "beloved Berliners" being very impatient at the length of the siege. We presume the truth to be that Count Moltke is not ready for this serious work. "The guns are still in the siege train parks." Although General Trochu did not effect his object in the late desperate sorties across the Marne, he inflicted a terrible loss on the besiegers, raised the spirits of the besieged population, and is apparently preparing for another attempt to break out. So far as we know of the temper of the Parisians there is at present no thought of surrender, though failing provisions must soon oblige them to come to terms with the foe. One writer says on this point:—"I cannot think that when a town of two million inhabitants is reduced to such expedients as this is now, it can hold out very long. The rations, consisting alternately of horse and salt fish, are still distributed, but they are hardly sufficient to keep body and soul together. Unless we make up our minds to kill our artillery horses, we shall soon come to the end of our supply." The Conference on the Black Sea question is to meet in London, and the invitations are to be sent out by our Government. Two points are not quite settled as yet. France wants to enlarge the scope of the Conference so as to bring the present war within purview, and whether she will send a plenipotentiary, if denied this claim, is not settled. Russia, also, seems to be very uneasy at her isolation, and is endeavouring to bully the Porte into a separate arrangement on the basis of Prince Gortschakoff's Note. We can easily imagine that the Czar would prefer the neutralisation of the Buxine to its being open to the flags of all nations, and that if the latter plan is likely to be accepted by the Powers, His Imperial Majesty will altogether back out of the Conference.

President Grant's bark is apparently worse than his bite. His unfriendly remarks in his message to Congress relative to England, were, it is thought, intended chiefly for political purposes at home. In a letter from Philadelphia we are told that General Grant really desires to settle the Alabama question, that the United States is in no way a party to Prince Gortschakoff's policy, and that "if Russia is counting to any extent upon American aid her reliance is weak indeed."

THE GERMAN EMPEROR.

SUCH is the title which has been conferred upon the King of Prussia by the Reichstag of the German Confederation, henceforth to be called "the German Empire." The House of Hohenzollern has, probably, reached the summit of its ambition, and the City of Berlin, in reward for the numerous sacrifices it has been called, in common with all the cities and towns of Prussia, to endure, for the unification of the Fatherland, will, for the future, enjoy the pre-eminent dignity of being styled *Kaiserstadt*.

"What's in a name?" Much every way. The King of Prussia, even as the President of the new German Confederation, would only regard himself, and be regarded by others, as *primus inter pares*. As such, no doubt, his prerogatives and responsibilities would have been much the same as they are now. He would have represented the Confederation internationally, would have declared war or concluded peace in its name, would have entered into alliances and contracted treaties with foreign States, and would have accredited and received ambassadors from foreign Powers. These will be his principal functions as German Emperor. What can a change of title signify either to the German people, to the States of Europe, or to the world at large? What can it matter whether William the First of Prussia is to be known as the chief among his royal brethren, or as a King of Kings? Very little, indeed, so far as the change

of style itself is concerned. But does not that change represent a sentiment not the most consistent with the highest grade of civilisation, and does it not forshadow tendencies extremely threatening to the future peace of Europe? At Berlin, it is said, the dignity thus conferred by the Reichstag upon the King of Prussia has excited no public enthusiasm. The inhabitants of that city, and, indeed, of Prussia, overflow with loyal attachment to their Sovereign. Their affection for him is intense, even verging upon romance. Is it an instinctive apprehension which damps their feeling to something akin to apathy, in contemplation of the last crowning honour conferred upon their idol? Have they in remembrance the reiterated declaration of Napoleon III. when he assumed the Imperial purple, "The Empire is peace"? Are they seized by a vague and indefinable impression that the Empire, which is to take the place of a Confederation, will be more largely concerned in its relations to foreign States than in its relations to its own people? Do they associate with the new style thoughts of a dominant militarism, cares for annexing territories, and ambitious aspirations to supremacy of rule in Europe, rather than with advancing intellectual culture, expanding industries, and perfected political freedom? Does the glittering title make their own hopes more dim, or their own prospects less inviting than heretofore? We can well imagine it. Empires have not usually been associated with "the greatest happiness of the greatest number." They have not ordinarily addressed themselves to the worthiest, or the most ennobling, susceptibilities of human nature. The passions they have evoked have been those most disquieting to society. The domestic improvements they have promoted have been less conspicuous than the military glory they have displayed. We fancy that the Germans may have had some such reflections as these welling up from the depths of their minds, and submerging the joy they would otherwise have felt at any increase of this world's honour bestowed upon their King.

For our part, we must confess to have looked forward with earnest satisfaction and hope towards united Germany, whether as a Confederation or as an Empire. We shared the confidence of the great majority of our countrymen that a strong State, composed, for the most part, of sober, home-loving, educated, industrious people, placed in the centre of Europe, would be the best guarantee which Europe could have of an abiding peace. Possibly, even yet this hope may be realised. When the stormy passions which have been roused by the present war have subsided, and the losses inflicted upon myriads of families have ceased to excite desires for revenge, and the burdens imposed by the gigantic strife of nations tell upon the comfort, and cripple the industrial energies, of the whole population of Germany, it may yet be that it will be exorcised of the demon of ambition which now possesses it, and become the most powerful guardian of European tranquillity. But we begin to doubt whether this generation is destined to witness so blessed a consummation.

We do not lay much stress upon the fact that Count Bismarck has given notice to the signatory Powers of the Treaty of Luxembourg, that the infractions of neutrality which he alleges to have been perpetrated by that province during the Franco-German war, will be held by him as a justification of disregarding its stipulations in future movements of German troops. It may be quite possible that he may avail himself of suspicious facts, or even of pretexts, for the temporary convenience of the German army, without intending thereby to lead to the incorporation of Luxembourg with the Empire. We are obliged to confess, however, that it is one of those "small beginnings" which, in a forecast of Count Bismarck's policy, is ominous of something more serious to follow. But, if report speaks truly of the purport of the conferences lately held between an emissary from the Pope and the German Emperor, there would seem to be a hankering of the latter to meddle in the political affairs of his neighbours. If, when this war is closed, the new-made Emperor proceeds to restore a temporal Sovereignty to the Papacy, in contravention of the moderate policy of the Italian Kingdom, it will be impossible to augur the quiet of Europe for many years to come. Should the German Empire be tempted to follow in the steps of the French Empire, nothing will have been gained for humanity by its reconstruction. Possibly, however, the intoxication of the Emperor may be neutralised by the sobriety of his subjects. Possibly, his own age may prevent him from kindling afresh, and for the sake of objects in which he can have no personal interests, the flames of war in Europe. And possibly—and this our main hope—the German

people having consolidated their unity, will turn their attention in the next place to crowning of the edifice with liberty. The out-look is rather gloomy. Let us hope that in this case, "The darkest hour precedes the dawn."

THE STATE OF IRELAND.

To the superficial observer, Ireland seems to be as great an enigma, if not as great "a difficulty," as ever. The State Church in that country has been disestablished, and an elaborate Land Act has been passed. The best part of two Sessions of the Imperial Parliament was consumed in carrying these two bold measures, with the avowed design of doing justice to Ireland. Apparently, the Irish people did not appreciate these efforts to remove their crying grievances. The "National" press was more virulent than ever. With the stringent provisions of the Peace Preservation Act hanging over them, they hesitated to preach sedition openly, but they have lost no opportunity of exhibiting their hatred of England. Because the English appeared to give their sympathies to Germany, the Irish Nationalists and their organs sided enthusiastically with France. They rejoiced with enthusiasm at the prospect of England being involved in war to protect the neutrality of Belgium; they magnified our differences with the United States; they exulted at the appearance of Prince Gortschakoff's menacing Note, in the hope that we might be embroiled with Russia. Then followed the repeal, or "home-government," movement, sustained by a few discontented Protestants and Roman Catholic priests, as though justice to Ireland had become "a mockery and a delusion," and Parliament had turned a deaf ear to all her complaints.

It is now evident that these signs of disaffection in Ireland have been greatly overrated. They were palpably superficial. We have been too ready to accept the interested invectives of Fenian organs, which subsist on seditious writing, as the voice of the people, and the ebullitions of party feeling on Orange anniversaries, &c., as indications of deep-seated animosity. Happily, there is indubitable evidence that the beneficial legislation of the past two years is producing legitimate fruit. "There can be no doubt, notwithstanding the statements of interested persons to the contrary," writes the Dublin correspondent of the *Times*, "that under British rule the country is steadily advancing in agricultural and commercial prosperity, and the people have abundant reason to be satisfied with the more comfortable circumstances in which they are placed and the means of further progress now at their disposal. They are too intelligent not to see that the substantial causes of discontent have been removed, and that they really possess exceptional advantages which they ought to appreciate. It will require time to develop the beneficial effects of legislation, but already signs are not wanting of the growth of a better feeling between different classes and more general contentment. With the inducements to industry which are now afforded, not only by the higher rewards of labour in wages and prices but the prospect of a secure enjoyment of its fruits, it may be hoped that the occupiers and tillers of the soil will have a proportionate sense of the necessity of maintaining tranquillity and order, and the risk of irreparable injury to their own interests from political disturbance."

The substantial truth of this gratifying statement is confirmed by many corroborative facts. It is notorious that the Peace Preservation Act of last Session is almost a dead letter, in consequence of the marked absence of agrarian outrages and the growth of a better feeling among the tenantry and cottiers. In very few cases have its stringent provisions been put in force. Rory-o'-the-Hills has ceased his marauding expeditions, and has betaken himself to industrial life. The extent of land under cultivation is steadily increasing, the value of real estate is again rising, and farmers are withdrawing the large capital which was lying idle in the banks to invest it in agriculture. The Irish people "are already showing, in places where it might be least expected, that they do not implicitly believe the statement that the Land Act is a sham, and that the landlords are exterminators and oppressors, who are to be regarded with irreconcilable hatred. The rules for the regulation of the practice as to sales of property to tenants have only been a few days before the public, and forms of agreement for taking advantage of this branch of the Act are now in actual preparation. In the North associations have been formed for the purpose of securing the full benefits of the tenant-custom clauses, and protecting their interests in the discussion of the legal questions which are likely to arise." At some of these meetings there

has been the best feeling between landlord and tenant, and a united desire shown to co-operate in the work of agricultural improvement.

This beneficial change is not confined to the industrial North. Sir W. Mansfield, who commands the forces in Ireland, finds ample leisure from his professional duties to join in the common task of promoting social elevation. At a recent meeting on Mr. E. R. Shirley's extensive estates, that officer bore testimony to "the vast improvements which had been everywhere effected" in the sister island of late years; and declared that having very recently visited the West and the South, "he was happy to state honestly, and as the result of his own experience, that there was no country in the world which exhibited so much progress in so short a time as these provinces of Ireland." It may take many years before the bitter fruits of past misgovernment are obliterated in Ireland. But a gradual change is taking place in the feeling of the population which no demagogic agitation can ultimately retard. There is now good hope that Ireland, comparatively satisfied and prosperous, will challenge but little attention during the coming Session of Parliament, and that our legislators will be able to devote their chief attention to questions of Imperial interest. In a few weeks it is probable the Irish political prisoners will be amnestied, and the Peace Preservation Act allowed to lapse; a clear proof that a new era—an era of tranquillity, order, and contentment—has arisen in this lately disaffected portion of Her Majesty's dominions.

ENGLAND'S POSITION IN EUROPE.

THERE can be little doubt that the debates of next Session will not only involve the question of increased armaments at home, but of our policy abroad. If we are about to greatly augment our military establishment, we shall soon find that there will be a necessity to turn it to account by taking up the quarrels of other nations, and meddling with Continental affairs till we get involved in war. No one can deny that by increasing the military element—already so powerful in our governing classes—we must ere long resort to the "bold and spirited" foreign policy of Lord Palmerston, which we have so recently and wisely discarded. The argument is that England cannot and ought not to stand selfishly alone, and that, for our own safety, we must follow the example of our neighbours. If they arm, we also must arm—if they turn the entire adult male population into soldiers, we also must do the same, or we shall sink into a third-rate and despised member of the European commonwealth.

Now it cannot be too vividly remembered that past experience does not warrant this conclusion. It is true that we get abused all round by Continental journals if they do not receive our support when they want it; and these reproaches are necessarily more violent when such a war rages as that between Germany and France. If, however, our international policy is not to be based upon the principle of pleasing others rather than ourselves, we must calmly put up with unfriendly and jealous criticism. Such grumbling does not really diminish the respect of the critics for England, nor their reluctant homage to her superior moral position. The great Continental Powers, with singular unanimity, fully admit our claim to rank with themselves; and in all cases of European difficulties, they even expect our Government to take the lead in international diplomatic negotiations. It was so in the Luxembourg dispute; and again when the gasconading Greeks threatened Turkey with war, England was accepted as the best and foremost of peace-makers in Europe. She failed, indeed, to induce either France or Germany not to draw the sword, because the Emperor Napoleon was bent upon war; but ever since, as then, it has been England of all the neutral Powers which has taken the initiative in every movement to put an end to the strife. It was Earl Granville, on our behalf, who suggested the conclusion of an armistice; it is he, no doubt, who will step forward when the French are ready to sue for peace. And further, it will be remembered, the other Powers of Europe withheld any expression of opinion on the celebrated Russian Note till our Government had given them the cue.

It cannot be said that this position of pre-eminence arises out of our imposing armaments. All the world knows that, in point of numbers, our army has, of late years, been no match for any second or third-rate Continental Powers, and that it would be eaten up by the vast forces at the command of the great military monarchies. Moreover, every European Court is perfectly aware that England could not, except in the last extremity, go to war—a number of circum-

stances combining to make her more vulnerable than any other nation. Why, then, do they, one and all, assign to England the first rank in Europe? Is it not because our foreign policy is equitable and disinterested—that we are removed from the jealousies and suspicions which so largely regulate the policy of Continental nations—and that the principles which we take for our guide recognise rights and duties to which all can render homage? By aspiring to be a great military Power, we could not expect to compete with the principal Continental nations, but we might arouse their suspicions, and thereby diminish the influence we are able to exercise in European councils. It is because we hold aloof, and because we do not threaten armed intervention when quarrels arise, that our advice is so deferentially listened to when it is asked or offered.

It is amazing to observe the perversity of some of our public writers in misjudging the position of England in relation to other countries, and especially to those now at war. Every chance expression of anger and impatience which comes from one belligerent or the other at our neutrality is accepted by them as a menace. At one time it is Germany, at another France, which will be revenged on us for refusing to take sides, and we seem to be almost in prospect of a formidable coalition to extinguish England. But soon—as is always the case—these bitter feelings will subside with the excitement which engendered them, and both sides will eventually do justice to a Power which gave umbrage to neither side, but did its best to put an end to the terrible strife, and alleviate the misery it has brought about.

It appears to us that no vain fears of the ill-will of our great neighbours, nor any unfounded expectation that our national prestige will be lowered, should induce this country to abandon its non-intervention policy. Our isolation imposes duties as well as gives security. England ought to be an example to the rest of the world of the superiority of free institutions, of abstinence from a grasping ambition of her ability to achieve greatness without great armaments. Just in proportion as this standard is attained will be the extent of our moral influence among civilised nations. For the present the example may not produce a very palpable effect upon the Great Powers. But when the present war is over, and the inevitable reaction sets in with the exhaustion caused by this gigantic campaign in France, our pacific and non-intervention policy will be seen to be wise and natural. It will be recognised that England's pre-eminence is due to her love of freedom and justice, to her cultivation of the arts of peace, and to her adherence to the principle of non-intervention at this juncture. But if we are to discard our traditional views, and to run a race with the military monarchies in ruinous armaments, we shall be emphatically endorsing a policy we have heretofore denounced, breeding suspicions and inciting a spirit of rivalry amongst other nations, and throwing away all the prestige we have acquired as a country which owes its international position not to the organised force it is able to wield, but to its adherence to principles which are compatible with universal freedom, and the prosperity of every community.

THE COMING ECLIPSE.

It is a gratifying relief to note that the surrounding din and excitement of horrid, murderous warfare have not wholly distracted the attention of the scientific world from the labour of investigating the nature and causes of the marvellous phenomena with which Nature has so frequently startled and bewildered the minds of men. Even amid the confusion and anxiety occasioned by the intelligence of repudiated treaties, fresh political complications, and possible ruptures of diplomatic intercourse with foreign powers, the English Government can find both time and means to effect the necessary preparations for a proper scientific observation of the great solar eclipse which is to take place on the 22nd inst. Nor is America behind hand. While General Butler is seeking to awaken the fiercest passions of his fellow-countrymen, that he may utilise the same to further his own selfish policy, the scientific men of the United States, rising superior to the Alabama and Canadian Fisheries questions, have fraternised with their English brethren, and cordially joined them in the work of solving the great astronomical problems which have so long baffled the investigations of the most gifted and patient scientific philosophers. True, France will apparently be debarred her share in the good work. The terrible emergency in which that country finds itself has animated its children with but one thought—unflinching resistance to the invader; and so

long as the Germans remain on French soil, the telescope will be discarded for the chassepot, the speculum for the sabre. But when the blessings of peace shall have become restored to the illfated land, her savans and philosophers will not be slow in turning to good account the information procured by the eclipse expeditions of England and America. Germany will, of course, furnish a proportionate number of trained observers, but not so many as would have been the case had no war been going on. The arts of peace and war cannot flourish side by side. When the study is replaced by the tent, the pen by the sword, science generally gets the worst of it. Men whose occupation is that of cutting throats, requisitioning towns, and burning villages, are not likely to take much interest in the progress of science, except so far as it may affect military affairs.

The solar eclipse of 1870 is regarded with feelings of more than ordinary interest by our astronomers, in consequence of its being visible at several points of southern Europe, easy of access from this country. It may be said that there is scarcely a place on the shores of the Mediterranean where the celestial phenomenon may not be witnessed in all its impressive grandeur. Another such opportunity will not occur until the year 1887, and even then the circumstances will not be nearly so favourable as on the coming occasion. The line of total eclipse will be about one hundred miles in width, commencing about 200 miles south of Cape Farewell, the southern extremity of Greenland, and, after traversing the Atlantic Ocean in a south-easterly direction, entering Europe on the coast of Portugal, near Serdao. Thence it passes close to Tavira, between Cadiz and Xeres, and nearly over Estepona, crossing the Mediterranean, and reaching the coast of Algiers, eight miles west of Oran. Afterwards it passes near Bakna, leaving the African continent in the direction of Sicily, the centre of the line of eclipse falling about ten miles north of Syracuse. Again crossing the Mediterranean, the line reaches Previsa, in the Gulf of Arta, crosses Thessaly, the northern part of the Greek Archipelago, the south-west of Roumelia, the Black Sea, the lower part of the Crimea, the Sea of Azof, and disappears in the south of Russia, near Novo-Tcherkask, in the country of the Don Cossacks. If the course of the eclipse be traced on a map, it will be rendered more intelligible. In the Crimea, the eclipse will plunge in deep gloom the whole of the position occupied by the allied armies before Sebastopol. Novo-Tcherkask, one of the last places at which the eclipse will be visible, is the spot where the celebrated Russian astronomer procured a final glimpse of the great comet of 1811, in August, 1812, as it set out upon its unseen journey of 3,000 years through the endless realms of space. In this country the eclipse will be a partial one, commencing at 8 minutes past 11 a.m. at Greenwich, and ending at 42 minutes past 1 p.m. The greatest eclipse will be at 25 minutes past 12, noon. The longest duration of the total eclipse will be at Oran, where it will last two minutes eleven seconds.

The object of the English and American expeditions will be to procure further reliable information respecting the physical constitution of the sun. Already, as most readers are probably aware, much has been done in the way of determining the physical character of the solar orb, but considerably more remains to be effected; such opportunities as that of the forthcoming eclipse being, unfortunately for the interests of science comparatively few and far between. Whenever a total or extensive eclipse of the sun takes place, the orb is seen to be completely surrounded by a luminous mist, which at other times is invisible, in consequence of the overpowering brilliancy of the solar disc. This singular corona, the nature of which has long formed a subject for speculative thought among scientific men, will principally engage the attention of the watchful observers of the eclipse, it being of primary importance that the real character of the mysterious halo should be ascertained. It will have to be determined, if possible, whether the luminous mist is really a solar appendage, and if so, what is the source of its light; or whether the singular appearance is simply a delusive glow in our own atmosphere, or in some not quite transparent medium existing between the earth and the sun. As the amount of time for effecting the necessary observations will not be much more than two minutes, the plan of operation has to be very carefully laid out beforehand. The English party, consisting of Mr. Norman Lockyer, Professor Tyndall, Professor Roscoe, Dr. Huggins, and numerous other experienced individuals, to the number of forty, will be divided into four sections, one of which will be stationed at each of the following places—Cadiz, Gibraltar, Oran, and

near Syracuse. The process of recording the solar phenomena will be simple, but effective. "One man in each party (or two men, for it is obviously desirable to duplicate work of critical character) will merely sketch the corona, and note in what parts, if any, it has a decided outline; and, since in some parts there shoot forth long beams like comet's tails, he will note whether these are permanent in feature throughout the eclipse, or whether they change in any way as the moon passes over the sun. Another man (at some stations, not at all) will photograph the corona as a sort of check upon the draughtsman; for there is suspicion that those cometary-looking streamers may be of ocular and illusory character. This point will be further helped to a settlement by the multiplication of eye-sketchers." Another man will examine the coronal light with a polariscope to determine whether it is polarised partially, entirely, or not at all. This latter operation will form the most critical of all. On its success will depend our ascertaining whether the luminous mist belongs or not to the sun. But this point determined, more remains to be decided; namely, the nature of the mysterious halo. This, it is hoped, will be effected by the spectroscope. Should the polariscope and the spectroscope fulfil all that is expected of them, we shall have made a great advance in astronomical knowledge, and prepared the way for future discoveries of the greatest importance.

Some censure has been passed on the English Government for its seeming indifference to the claims of science in the matter of the eclipse expedition. It was supposed that false notions of economy had induced Mr. Lowe and his colleagues to refrain from furnishing any assistance to Mr. Norman Lockyer and his companions. Under this impression the United States authorities generously volunteered to defray the expenses of the English expedition. Fortunately their aid was not required, it being discovered that the English Government, so far from being averse to helping the astronomers, were most anxious to render them all needful help. Consequently, the English expedition has assumed a national character, and will always be regarded as such. Nevertheless, the spontaneous offer of the United States Government will not fail to be duly appreciated by Englishmen. It was one of those courtesies which go far to remove national prejudices and develop those international friendships which form the surest guarantees of peace and good-will between country and country. In the world of science such things as international hatreds are unknown. The Teuton and the Gaul can here labour together on terms of amity, whatever may be the feelings of their brothers on the battle-field. How paltry, how evanescent, must appear the objects of the present cruel and desolating war in the eyes of those engaged in exploring the wonders of the heavens; and how vain and fleeting will become the triumph of a Bismark or a Moltke compared with those achieved by the earnest workers in the field of scientific discovery. The time will come when the world will learn to discriminate between real and false glory, and then the honoured names of 1870 will not be those of either German or French Generals, but those of men like Norman Lockyer and Professor Tyndall.

Miscellaneous.

MILL HILL SCHOOL.—At the recent examination for scholarships, senior scholarships, worth 20l. a year, were gained by Pedler of Kingsbridge and Horne of Hanley; junior scholarships, worth 10l. a year, by Marston of Reading and Price of Nailsworth.

A HINDOO MEDICAL STUDENT.—The examination which has just taken place at the Royal College of Surgeons for the fellowship of that institution, presents a feature of unusual interest to the medical profession and the public generally, it having afforded the first instance of a native Indian gentleman, Mr. Gopal Chunder Roy, having been admitted to that distinction.

REPRESENTATION OF MEATH.—Mr. Pallett, Q.C., has retired from the contest for the representation of Meath, on the ground that the continuance of his candidature would cause a division of the Liberal party. The Hon. George Plunkett, also a Liberal, is now the only candidate. There is, however, some vague talk of bringing forward a candidate in the interest of the Repeal or Home Government movement; but no name is yet mentioned.

EXTRAORDINARY NUMBER OF SUDDEN DEATHS.—During the past week Dr. Lankester, coroner for Central Middlesex, held no fewer than forty-three inquests. Of these twenty-seven were cases of sudden deaths, and five of the deceased were inmates of St. Pancras Workhouse. In the course of the inquiries the coroner remarked that the first week or two of cold weather at the commencement of each winter produced more cases of sudden death than any other period of the year.

THE OPIUM TRAFFIC IN CHINA.

BY THE REV. GRIFFITH JOHN, OF HANKOW.

III.

It is often said that we have nothing to do with the widespread cultivation of opium in China, and that the people themselves are solely responsible for it. I must confess that the matter does not present itself in that light to my mind. It seems to me that England is deeply implicated in the crime. We have created and stimulated the appetite for the drug; we have made the nefarious traffic in it respectable, by inducing the Chinese to legalise it; we have made indulgence in it safe and easy, and we have caused the natives to supply their own wants at a cheaper rate than we can do it for them. In former days smokers were banished, or punished in other ways, and sellers decapitated. At present both are perfectly safe at their respective employments. Concealment, either from a sense of shame or danger, is hardly known now. Even in Peking the dens are to be seen in every lane; and there is an opium-shop in the palace itself. We are informed, on reliable authority, that there, in the immediate presence of the Son of Heaven, forty per cent. of the small officials are opium-smokers; from seventy to eighty per cent. of the followers, attendants and male servants of the mandarins; from thirty to forty per cent. of the female attendants of officials; from twenty to thirty per cent. of the fighting soldiery and the literary class; fifty per cent. of the eunuchs in the palace; and twenty per cent. of the merchants. Such is the present state of things in the capital, where, in former times, the laws against the consumption were most stringent, and the penalties exceptionally severe. The country at large presents a sad spectacle in this respect. When I arrived in China, about fifteen years ago, the opium shops were to be found only in the back streets, with a cloth or bamboo screen covering the door. Now they are to be seen in the great thoroughfares; and, like other shops, they have their sign boards hanging in front. Let the traveller go where he will, and he finds that the pipe is offered at all the inns as freely and openly as any article of food. Business is discussed and bargains are concluded over the narcotic. No one who wishes to be regarded as a gentleman, ever thinks of inviting friends to a repast without laying in an ample supply of the drug. To neglect the pipe at convivial gatherings, would be looked upon as a great breach of etiquette, and would mark off the host as a mean, niggardly fellow. The native physician often expects to be invited to take a pipe when he visits his patient. Mercantile firms and large shops have the pipe and its accompaniments always spread for distinguished customers. The employes connected with the Mandarin offices nearly all smoke, and they are slow to oblige any one till treated to a pipe.

Thus the legalisation of the opium-trade has resulted in giving the native cultivation a wonderful impulse, in vastly increasing the consumption, and in removing the ignominy and danger connected with both. True most of the evils which sprang from the contraband character of the trade have been done away with, but other and greater evils have sprung up in their room. A wicked and destructive traffic in a poisonous drug has been made to assume the form and features of an honourable trade, the importer of opium is no longer a despicable smuggler, but an honourable merchant, the Chinese cultivate the poppy far more extensively than they did before, the odium of opium-smoking has been taken away to a great extent, and the consumers have vastly multiplied, and tens of thousands of men and women, who would not have fallen into the habit in other circumstances, have been ruined for ever. Such are some of the tremendous evils which have resulted from the last act of the British Government in regard to the opium traffic.

But then we are told that "opium is not a curse, but a comfort and benefit to the hard-working Chinese." Were that the case, the British Government would deserve China's warmest thanks for the great boon which England has conferred upon her, and I, as a missionary, could only pray God speed to the traffic. Nay, I might treat the people to a pipe occasionally, as I sometimes do to a cup of tea or a bowl of rice. But such a statement could never have fallen from the lips of any one who was not interested in the consumption. Allow me to mention some of the many evils which attend the vice of opium-smoking in China:—

1. In the first place I would observe that the habitual use of the narcotic can be productive of no good to the consumer. On this point the testimony of Sir B. C. Brodie may be deemed conclusive. These are his words:—"However valuable opium may be when employed as an article of medicine, it is impossible for any one who is acquainted with the subject to doubt that

the habitual use of it is productive of the most pernicious consequences, destroying the healthy action of the digestive organs, weakening the powers of the mind as well as the body, and rendering the individual who indulges himself in it, a worse than useless member of society. I cannot but regard those who promote the use of opium as an article of luxury, as inflicting a most serious injury on the human race."

(2.) I would observe, secondly, that it is a great mistake to refer opium to the same category as tobacco and spirits. On this point there is a wonderful unanimity of opinion among those who are capable of forming an opinion in the matter. Tobacco, beer, and wine, may be taken in moderation, and are generally believed to be harmless if so used; but even the moderate use of opium is baneful, and, what is worse, it is impossible to take it in moderation. The smoker is never satisfied with less than the intoxicating effects of the drug. He smokes with the view of making himself drunk, and his cravings are never appeased till he gets drunk. If time and means permit, he lives in a state of ecstatic trance or intoxication, from which he desires never to be waked up. Opium-smoking cannot be compared with moderate drinking, but with drunkenness itself. This habit is more insidious in its approach than that of drinking, and holds its victim with a far more tenacious grasp. "The vampire seems to suck all the moral courage out of a man." Not one in a hundred ever escaped its clutches. "There is," says Dr. Lockhart, "perhaps no form of intemperance more seducing than the use of opium, nor is there any more difficult to be delivered from." Confirmed opium-smokers (and all are confirmed smokers who take it habitually) will part with everything they possess rather than abandon the drug. Dr. Dudgeon in his report on the Pekin Hospital for 1865 makes the following statement:—"During the last three years, 510 opium-smokers have applied for relief, but comparatively few in my opinion have been reclaimed. It is a powerful habit, a second nature, stronger and more insinuating than strong drink. . . . To give up the fascinations and associations of the pipe, and to overcome and hold out against agonies, pain, and discomfort, even with the aid of foreign medicine, which are induced by attempts at reformation, requires great strength of will. After abstinence for months, perhaps, the victims relapse into their old habits. During the last three years I have had four different applications from the same person for medicine to affect a cure." This is the pitiful condition in which every opium-smoker finds himself after a short period of habitual indulgence. The Chinese themselves smile at the idea of instituting a comparison between tobacco or ardent spirits and opium. They say that the two things cannot be compared in their effects on the individual, the family, and the nation. It must be remembered that the Chinese have their stimulants as well as other nations, and have had them for at least four thousand years. Confucius' disciples have left the fact on record, that "it was only in ardent spirits the sage laid down no limit for himself, only that he did not allow himself to be confused by it." Li Tai-peh, China's most famous poet, was a great winebibber. Of him it is said:—"Tai-peh having drank five quarts of ardent spirits composed a hundred verses. Nearly every Chinaman who can afford it consumes a certain quantity of rice and millet spirits daily; and it is a common saying with them when they invite each other to a feast—"no get drunk no go home." It is generally supposed that the Chinese hardly touch alcoholic stimulants, that they dislike spirits, and are a very abstemious people. The fact, however, is, that they consume an enormous quantity of the fiery samshoo, and other intoxicating liquors; and that their apparent sobriety is to be ascribed to their habit of taking these things with their food at home. The opium merchants tell us that the Chinese, like all other peoples, must have their stimulants or narcotics, and as they care not for alcoholic drinks, there is no reason why they should not have opium to soothe and comfort them. The above remarks are sufficient to show that the Chinese are well supplied with stimulants, and that they use them freely. Looking at the subject even from this low point of view, there is nothing to be said in favour of the introduction of this poisonous narcotic.

3. Opium-smoking undermines the constitution, ruins the health, and shortens the life. A man of strong constitution, active habits, and well supplied with generous food, may indulge himself in it moderately for some years without apparently sustaining very great physical injury. But the moderate use of it is almost impossible to a man who can indulge himself in it immoderately. The appetite becomes more intense and insatiable every day; the smallest use of it leads infallibly to an intemperate use; as it is indulged in more freely it gradually

consumes the animal spirits, and wastes the flesh and blood, and as soon as the means of gratification are exhausted, or the supply of the necessities of life is diminished, death appears. It induces various complaints, and so weakens the whole system that it becomes an easy prey to epidemics and diseases of all kinds. "It enervates the victims gradually so that an inability to obtain the drug, or a strenuous attempt to break off the habit, induces an incurable opium diarrhoea which often proves fatal." In the case of excessive use, "the victim is wretched, nerveless, and imbecile, he has insupportable languor throughout the whole frame, gnawing at the stomach, pulling at the shoulders, and falling off of the spirit; vitality is gradually destroyed, and the result is premature death." Dr. Lockhart describes the downward path of the opium-smoker in the following terms:—"When a smoker first commences the use of opium, it is a pleasant refreshing stimulant; an artificial vigour and tone are given to the system, followed by a corresponding relaxation and listlessness; after which an effort is made to remove the latter by a return to the pipe. This stage in the smoker's progress may be prolonged for some years; but he soon becomes a victim to the habit thus formed, which cannot easily be shaken off; the strength, however, is not impaired, and attention can be paid to business as usual, indeed the stimulus of the drug enables him to enter with vivacity upon any pursuit in which he may be engaged. At this time a little decision would enable him to throw off the habit, but this is seldom called for, and the smoker continues to use his pipe, thus accustoming himself more and more to dependance on his much loved indulgences. By-and-by retribution comes; he cannot live comfortably without the stimulant; all the pleasure has gone, but he must obtain relief from the pain of body and dissipation of mind which follow the absence of the drug, at any cost; the quantity of drug called for being from time to time greater and its use more frequent. Among the symptoms that present themselves are griping in the bowels, pain in the limbs, loss of appetite, so that the smoker can only eat dainty foods; disturbed sleep and general emaciation. The outward appearances are sallowness of complexion, bloodless cheeks and lips, sunken eye, with a dark circle round the eyelids, and altogether a haggard countenance. There is a peculiar appearance of the face of a smoker, not noticed in any other condition; the skin assumes a pale waxy appearance, and as if all the fat were removed from beneath the skin."

In fine, a confirmed opium-smoker presents a most melancholy appearance, haggard, dejected, with a lack-lustre eye, and a slovenly, weakly, feeble gait. "Besides," says Dr. Medhurst, "the cases of death arising from the excessive use of opium among the higher classes, who can afford to gorge themselves with their stimulant till they die, there are many more unhappy dissolutions arising from the inability to procure the accustomed, and to them necessary, quantity. In case of those who are in middling circumstances, and get inured to the habit, the enervating effects are such that they become after a time unable to attend to their ordinary avocations. They then lose their situations, or their business fails, and they are reduced to necessity. Gradually they part with their little property, furniture, clothes, &c., until they come to the level of the labouring poor, without those energetic habits which might otherwise form the ground of support. Among the lower classes, those who indulge in the use of opium are reduced to abject poverty sooner than the preceding. Having no property, furniture, or clothes to dispose of, their wives and children are sold to supply their ever-increasing appetite for the drug; and when these are gone, with greatly diminished strength for labour, they can no longer earn sufficient for their own wants, and are obliged to beg for their daily bread. As to the supply of opium, they must depend on the scrapings of other men's pipes; and as soon as they are unable to obtain by begging the necessities of life, together with the half-burnt opium, on which their very life depends, they droop and die by the roadside, and are buried at the expense of the charitable."

The Bishop of Manchester stated at a recent meeting, that there were in Manchester and Salford from 70,000 to 80,000 persons living not in houses, but cellars, dens, and hovels.

ONE USE FOR TELEGRAPHS.—The Canadian telegraphs are entitled to the credit of having discovered how fast an earthquake travels. At Mimonski, when the late earthquake was made known to the operator there, he at once asked the Quebec man how he felt. The shock having arrived just as the latter was about to answer, it caused him to change his mind, and ask the Montreal man, 200 miles further on, whether he had felt it. The latter had just time to say "No," when the office was shaken to its foundation.—*American Paper.*

Literature.

MR. STANLEY LEATHES'S BOYLE LECTURES.*

In the most recent series of Mr. Leathes's Boyle lectures, we find him bravely facing the most difficult of the many problems he has had to front. The whole cannonade of adverse criticism has recently been turned upon the citadel of St. John's Gospel. Its authenticity has been most boldly impeached. It has been declared a mere get-up of the second century, which was cleverly passed off as a composition of the Apostle John. It has been asserted that only in it did Jesus Himself claim to be the pre-existent Son of God; and, as the naturalistic critics must discredit such claims, they took the bold step of declaring plainly that the Gospel had no genuine basis whatever, and was quite in discordance with what was admittedly genuine in the others. The misfortune is that the destructive critics cannot agree on the most important and outstanding points. Southey tells us that when King Sohab did a certain thing, a serpent sprang forth from his back and bit the royal head and brain, and that whenever the King tried to destroy the creature he found he was lacerating his own flesh. So it is, in some measure, with the rationalistic critics. If they were of one mind, so far as to ensure success, they would only wound their own hearts. But when the effort of one is set over against another, they neutralise each other's work. Their want of agreement is, after all, a testimony to the unassailability of the spirit of the Revelation which they would fain rob of its power.

Mr. Leathes has been in one respect very successful. He has keenly taken hold of these inconsistencies on the part of the sceptical critics, and used them with finest effect. But this new volume, as a whole, is not so sustained as the first, on the "Old Testament Witness to Christ," in which the question of the authorship of Isaiah was discussed in a very masterly manner. Nor is it quite so brilliant in parts as is the volume on the "Witness of St. Paul to Christ." The chapters on the "Conversion of St. Paul" and the "Courage of St. Paul" were not only forcible, but pictorially striking and effective. Possibly the closeness with which the critical warfare has raged round St. John's Gospel more recently may be, in great measure, to blame for this; it being incumbent on Mr. Leathes to deal more with individual criticisms in detail than in the case of the other two. We do not, at any rate, get such an impression of unity of purpose in this volume as in the others. There is more of light skimming; the arguments are not so strictly gathered and held together in the hand. But with individual arguments he deals ably, and now and then with remarkably incisive force. All our space will allow us to do is to notice a few of these. Surely this argument, from the very divergences which are urged to exist between St. John's and the other three Gospels, is apt and forcible:—

"Supposing the writer to have been an eye-witness, how far is he a credible one? What internal indications are there of his credibility? Surely the divergences so often insisted on between this evangelist and the others, has a very direct bearing on this point. It is clear that the writer's aim must have been to give a sketch of the teaching of Jesus rather than a history of His life. Even the miracles recorded appear to hold a subordinate position to the teaching they are designed to illustrate. And even in recording the last hours of the life of Jesus, where the writer is precise and circumstantial, more attention and space are devoted to the discourses than to the sufferings of our Lord. It is fair to assume, therefore, that it was not his object merely to record the facts of the life of Christ, but much more to relate its moral, if we may so say. But is not this a proof, in addition to the one we have already mentioned, that other books were in existence then which supplied the circumstances here omitted? And is not this writer's entire independence of the rest an argument quite as strong in favour of his veracity as the reverse? Nay more, for is it likely that he could maintain his ground in competition with others, from whom he differed so widely, if he were actually less trustworthy than they? The fact that this Gospel was generally known much later than the others is a negative indication of its genuineness, because, had it not been genuine, its struggle for acceptance, on becoming known, would have been incomparably more severe from the very circumstance of other and divergent narratives being already in possession of the field. So far, therefore, from the different character of the fourth Gospel being any cause for suspicion, it is rather an argument in its favour."

This is not less effective against the argument that the author of St. John in his Gospel merely indulged himself in a luxury of abstract thinking:—

"No writer living 150 years after Christ could possibly have advanced such a theory as the one here

* *The Witness of the Old Testament to Christ.* Boyle Lectures for 1868.
The Witness of St. Paul to Christ. Ditto for 1869.
The Witness of St. John to Christ. Ditto for 1870.

propounded, if Jesus had been a mythical or imaginary personage who had no real existence. For, on the assumption the tone of this writer's mind was of a mystical and abstract character, he took delight in thought as thought, in ideas of a purely metaphysical nature. But it certainly cannot be denied that the Jesus whom he portrayed was to his imagination a real existence. He was concerned with the actions and discourses of a living person—a person who had lived. He was not setting before his readers the history of one whom he intended them to accept as a shadow. The Jesus of his narrative was a real person to him, and was meant to be a real Jesus to others. This, then, being so, why was it that he, as a dealer in abstractions, should not rather have taken the abstraction which he found ready to his hand, and been content with it? Why attempt to give a real existence to that which, on the hypothesis, had none, and which, according to the assumed tendency of his own mind, wanted more? Why should he of all men essay to give 'a local habitation and a name' to that which one would think he might have preferred to contemplate as the 'airy nothing,' a 'form' of 'things unknown' to actual life? The very shape his work assumed was a witness that the Life which he recorded was not an invention of his own, but had been lived in the flesh. For, if otherwise, why should he who delighted in abstractions have laboured to give consistency and form to that which was before impalpable?

The book is a solid and valuable contribution to apologetic literature; and as summarising skilfully many old arguments and enforcing some fresh ones, it deserves to be welcomed by those who are interested in such studies. We should not omit to state that Mr. Leathes is very apt occasionally in analogies from the sister-fields of art and literature—his references to the anonymous author of *Waverley*, in the first portion of the volume, being singularly just, and the illustration exceedingly well drawn out.

POEMS AFTER THE ANTIQUE. *

Such poems as these—saddened as they are from beginning to end by the pathetic simplicity of antique passion and despair—necessarily raise the question as to the function of the classical spirit in our own time. The persecuting divisions of modern thought, the utter hopelessness of attaining to anything like intellectual certitude on many of the most awful problems lie at the bottom of it. In those poems of Mr. Arnold, and Mr. Swinburne and Mr. Warren, which express most strongly the lyrical side of their nature, there is unmistakably to be detected a note of reaction and of hurried escape from the contemplation of objects that loom oppressively before the eye of conscience. There is a haunting sense of a reality escaped from, whose shadow cast athwart the forms of the fancy imparts to them an air of ghastly unreality, in spite of the protestations of the singer, that he has found a world that wholly contents him. There is no sense of sunny enjoyment such as pervaded the utterances of the early Greeks—no serene self-abandonment to the joys of the educated sensuous life in the complete unconsciousness of loftier claims. The verdict is rather that of the Old Hebrew King—"Vanity of Vanities, all is vanity and vexation of spirit." This undercurrent of purely modern sentiment, albeit it is too over-economical to be itself an active element in producing poetry, suffices to translate these our classical works of art into romance—reflecting more truly than any more direct and frankly confessed utterance, the real temper of the time—its wistful unrest, and its overgrowing desire to contemplate things apart from a moral and spiritual relation to them.

The classical revival in England, we regard therefore as reactionary; but it is none the less significant on that account. Mr. Warren is as deeply imbued with the classical spirit as either Mr. Arnold or Mr. Swinburne. He either eschews modern themes altogether or treats them from first to last in the confirmed classic manner. But he is no mere imitator. He breathes the classic spirit. There is a severe chastity and grace and measure in every line Mr. Warren writes; but these qualities are as noticeable in the few poems on modern themes as in those on what are properly classic ones. Here we have tangible proof of the narrowing effect of the classic spirit in one respect. Everything takes on the same pale hue—the delicacy as of foliage seen sharp against the pathetic tints of evening sky. The modern sentiment of love, for example, has no place, unless, indeed, we except the poem "John Anderson's Answer," which certainly is most unlike the original, at once in the cold remoteness of its feeling and its determinateness of form. "Joan of Arc," "Nimrod," and "A Heathen to his Idol," indicate the type of subject which most attracts Mr. Warren. But the bulk of the volume is made up of poems on properly classic themes—some of the choruses, if we mistake not, being reprinted from his earlier dramas.

Mr. Warren has an exquisite ear; and his

* *Rehearsals. A Book of Verses.* By JOHN LEICESTER WARREN, Author of "Philoctetes." (Strahan and Co.)

verse dwells on the ear of the reader with a whisper as of evening wind, stealing through woodbine, always too with a shade of melancholy in its sweetness. What could be tenderer, sweeter, more rapt in self-nursed despair than this from "The Children of the Gods"?

"The earthly sons of these in narrow homes
By margin of the solitary seas,
Give glory to their fathers, if the earth
Ripens the seed, or rounds the grape to wine,
That they may mingle them a little cup,
Or sheaf the threshold of the marsh for bread;
And breed in turn new offspring, handing down
The record of their lineage, bitterly
Remembered in the dim degenerate days:
Or serving as an ancient lullaby,
To rock the cradles of an alien race.

The generations pass; the gods abide.
The beauty and perfections of the earth
Are due to silence in a little while,
And other things displace them, fair as these.
The hearth is broken where the children played:
The gradual wave is eating at the land,
The gradual river shallows up the sea.
The mounds are garnered with the bones of men.
We creep to silence; but the eternal earth,
With all her gods above her evermore,
Sleeps into night, and wakens into dawn."

This, too, is very characteristic, fully bearing out what we have said above:—

"BE WISE IN TIME."

"Dispose thy loves in realms of mellow flowers;
Truth is not fooled to make his stay with thee.
Thy faith is but the burnish of the hours,
And freedom is a nobler thing than love.
So let me be
Free as the cloud or river to remove.

"Bad of the rose, with bright untruthful eyes,
Time, now thy slave, shall be thy tyrant soon,
To quench the music of thy dove replies,
Gentle as sleep, and jar to barren string
The tender tone
Thy lips could murmur like the gates of spring.

"While thou art queen in thy great yellow hair,
And thy lips empire holds in thrall Desire;
While Love is as a bird beneath thy snare
Thou wilt not heed. But Fate has heard of days
To taint and tire
The sweetest blossom of the meadow ways.

"Love is a field of weed and broken sand,
A maiden garlanding sepulchral urns
Or a child singing, where on either hand
Are rivers; one is Birth, a lovely stream;
The other tares
To Lethe by the lonely realms of dream."

"Pandora" is an exquisite restoration. It is instinct with the Greek spirit. The severe simplicity and beauty of the old life speaks through the swell of the rhythm, which pulses steady and calm, like the waves of a summer sea around rocks.

This is another apt illustration of our criticism:—

"HE MAY WHO CAN."

"We are wise, the world is old,
Antic changes shift and hold,
Boys will swear and maids will weep,
Weep and smile again.

"Songs are for an April breast,
Feathers for a gleaming crest,
They may wake that need no sleep,
Sing, that feel no pain.

"In a race young limbs are fleetest,
Boyhood's youth must kiss the sweetest;
Palsy cheek and head of gray
Mope beside the fire.

"Changes push us in our grave;
Can we keep the orts we have?
Ours is but a waning day,
What should we desire?"

For force and vigour of diction "Joan of Arc" is perhaps the most noticeable poem in the volume; but, in our opinion, the "Fall of the Titans," in its own way, is unapproached.

There are few notes indicating influences from other great poets in this volume. Yet there are one or two, which we regret to meet with although they are only spots on ermine. No reader of Tennyson, for example, will fail to remember the passage which recalls:—

"Wisdom is mine; but I can give the love;
Which twined with wisdom is most perfect life,
Love being crown of wisdom, unenjoyed
Save of the wise in its essential core,
An ecstasy beyond the fleeting sense;
Which wisdom nearest God head can attain
In glimpses only; but the herd of men
Love as the herds; the scale of higher love
Ascends with higher wisdom and the joy."

Then not a few of the stanzas in "A Hebrew Lament after Defeat" recall a famous effort of Mr. Swinburne's—Mr. Warren now and then finding it quite impossible to escape from this master's fascinating rhythms. This, for instance, is one of them:—

"The gold is turned to a token,
The staff to a rod,
Yet thou shalt bind up them that are broken,
O Lord our God!"

And do not these verses remind us of the former:—

Thou hast shattered the joints of our harness,
And loosened our greaves,
Thou hast made us light dross in the furnace,
Gray blight in the leaves.

Thou hast altered our marvellous places
To pasture for cranes,
Thou hast broken the flesh of our faces
With leprosy stains.

* * * * *

The beam of our sun's way is broken;
Our moon bows her head.
In the core of our sunset thy token
Is darkness for red.

We must close with a beautiful passage from "Pandora." Epimetheus speaks:—

"Wisdom is much, my brother: thou art wise.
But reason overstrained is folly's thrall.
Can this white perfect creature, excellent,
Clothed in the lovely colour of pale light,
Round her the scent of rainy forest pines,
With hair like soft bents full of seed and flower,
Lie with her lips against her sacred form?
Most holy must she be that is so fair:
Her fresh young beauty answers for her truth.
I hold thee, then, intolerably wise
To dare make weep a thing so strangely sweet.
Prove her untruth; I am content to seem
For such delicious falsehood, wholly fool,
If thy perfection be the mask of guile,
Slay me, sweet lily: I accept my doom."

BRIEF NOTICES.

Esther West. A Story. By ISA CRAIG-KNOX. (London: Cassell and Co.) If this tale had been originally published as a three-volume novel instead of in a popular serial, it would no doubt have been well thumbed by the readers of circulating libraries who can be satisfied with a skilfully-planned story, full of striking situations, varied character-portraits, and wholesome sentiments, without needing sensational stimulants. The heroine is somewhat of an ideal character, who passes from the genteel life, in which she had been reared by a lady who adopted her, into an atmosphere of poverty and squalor, where her father, an unsuccessful workman, discovers her. She stands the ordeal with almost superhuman fortitude. There are many other characters in the story more human if not so heroic, and Mrs. Knox touches some of the finer characteristics of her *dramatis personæ* with great delicacy and discrimination—especially in the case of Harry West, Esther's fascinating and self-indulgent cousin, and his deluded wife; Constance Vaughan, the bosom friend of the heroine; and Mary Potter, her real mother in humble life. The tone of the story throughout is pure and elevated, without false sentiment, or unnatural situations, and it inculcates a broad and simple Christianity. In the plot there is a good deal of originality, though towards the close the authoress seems to be a little perplexed how satisfactorily to work it out to the desired conclusion. A score of excellent illustrations give finish to the volume.

The World of Moral and Religious Anecdote. By EDWIN PAXTON HOOD. (London: Hodder and Stoughton, Paternoster-row.) Encouraged by the favourable reception of his "World of Anecdote," the Rev. Paxton Hood has essayed a second volume on the same plan, being "illustrations and incidents gathered from the words, thoughts, and deeds in the lives of men, women, and books." None but a person who has traversed the whole field of literature, and who can rejoice in a retentive memory, could have got together this compilation. It is "a banquet of anecdotes." Mr. Hood naturally has great faith in this medium for imparting instruction. But surely he overrates its importance. He devotes 700 and more pages to his multitudinous extracts—which we must admit to be very varied, and to a great extent well selected—while a considerable number are drawn from sources caviare to the public. But the volume is too ponderous. If it had been one-half the size it would, in our opinion, have been more acceptable, even—in accordance to the author's design—as a work of reference rather than as a volume to be read continuously.

We have also to acknowledge—*The Bible Opened for Children*, by MARY BRADFORD, with twelve illustrations (Lockwood and Co.). *The Satires of Horace*, translated into English metre by ANDREW WOOD, M.D., F.R.S.E. (W. P. Nimmo, Edinburgh)—a kind of holiday task done by a doctor on his rounds—*chacun a son gout!* *My Contemporaries of the Nineteenth Century*, by CORNELIUS SLIM (E. Stock)—a dull, senseless chronicle of 400 ministers who died between A.D. 1800 and 1869. *The Creation, and other Original Poems, Sacred and Secular*, by EBENEZER BURR (J. Snow and Co.). *Hints and Helps for Teachers and Parents*, fifth thousand, by J. GREEN (Hamilton, Adams, and Co.). *England or Rome*, by a Lay Member of the Church of England (S. W. Partridge). *Sketch of the Life of Dr. Luigi Desanctis*, by A. GAVAZZI (Nisbet and Co.). *The Biblical Treasury*, Vol. VIII. (Sunday-School Union.) *Haydn, and other Poems*, by the Author of "Life Below" (Provost and Co.). We have no quarrel with an author who is content to base his claims to support upon previous services, but we quite forget, if we ever saw, "Life Below." *A Die to Make a Mint of Money* (Macintosh). This great desideratum is "honest and persevering industry." Many people will question its wealth-producing quality. *Redemption*, a poem by the Rev. A. HORSBURGH, A.M. (Rutherford, Kelso). *Schneider's First Year's French Course* (Oliver and Boyd). *Johnny Trueman; or, the Young Convert.* A poem by SAMUEL DEACON

(Winks and Son, Leicester). Simpkin and Co., London.) A reprint of a quaint book in verse, first published in 1803. The style is somewhat that of John Bunyan when he essayed to put his thoughts into rhyme. It was intended chiefly for villagers and people of uncritical taste and disposition. The homeliness and genuine humour of the writer have earned for him considerable popularity among the simple country-folk in Leicestershire. *Book VI. of the Consecutive Narrative Series of Reading Books* (T. Murby). *Married and Settled*, by the Author of "A Trap to Catch a Sun-beam" (Lookwood). *Church Establishments*, by the Rev. HENRY BIRCH (John Snow and Co.). *What is Truth? a Layman's view of Christianity* (Whittaker and Co.). *The Interior of the Earth*, by H. P. MALET (Hodder and Stoughton). *The Great Prophecy*, by the Rev. W. T. H. EALBS (Seeley and Co.). An abridgement of Mr. Elliot's "Horse Apocalyptic." *Iphigene*, by ALEXANDER LAUDER (Hodder and Stoughton). *Count Teleki, a story of Modern Jewish Life*, by ECA (F. Warne and Co.). *Sabbath Evening Lectures*, by GEORGE CROW (T. D. Morrison, Glasgow). *Nessie's Hero*, by MAGGIE SYMINGTON (James Clarke and Co.). *Proposed National Arrangements for Primary Education*. Third Edition. By the Rev. H. W. HOLLAND (Longmans). Mr. Holland is a Wesleyan minister who has given great attention to the education question, and who, though an unsuccessful candidate, polled more than 14,000 votes in the election of the School Board for Birmingham. *Essays, Sketches, and Poems*, by ANDREW WALLACE (E. Stock). *The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper*, by DANIEL BIDDLE (Williams and Norgate.)

NEW EDITIONS.

Among new editions the most noteworthy are *Life and Letters of Faraday*. Two vols. (Longmans.) A book which we should have been glad to review at the length which its importance and interest demanded, had we been favoured with a copy of the first edition. Any commendatory word of ours would now be superfluous. The work has already ranked among the chief of modern biographies. *Faith Gurney's Girlhood*. The eighteenth penny series. (Sampson Low and Co.) A cheap and most convenient reprint of a work which is not less able or interesting than the later works of the same authoress, viz., "The Gayworthys" and "Hitherto."

GIFT-BOOKS FOR THE YOUNG.

The Diary of Nannette Dampier during the years 1664-1666. By ANNA J. BUCKLAND. (Johnstone, Hunter and Co.) Poor Nannette! Her father was a Royalist and her uncle and guardian a Puritan. At a very tender age consigned to the care of a "Sister" in a French convent, she was released by her father's desire only to find that he had since been killed in a duel, and that her Uncle John, the "heretic," must be her future protector. Before she had found to her dismay that the "religious life" was not her vocation, and in the Puritan family she at first found that solemn looks, a grave deportment, long sermons, and self-examination were no more to her taste. But her diary records in a few pleasantly written pages how she came to a better knowledge. "The providence which shapes our ends" brought her much experience both of the true and the false chivalry of life, the former failing, the latter victorious, in the supreme hour of need, and she at length cast in her lot wholly, and satisfactorily even from a novelist's point of view, with the faithful servants of God. The story is free from constrained religious feeling. It is excellent in every respect.

Messrs. Nelson, of Edinburgh, have issued, among other delights for the young which we must speak of next week, a packet of brightly-coloured pictures of humming-birds of various kinds. They will please students of ornithology, as well as the children, for whom we suppose they were primarily intended.

The Four Messengers, by E. M. H. (Bell and Daldy), is a touching domestic story. A good writer, having a deep knowledge of, and sympathy with, the young, desiring to encourage and to strengthen them for the inevitable troubles of life, has put a great deal of excellent loving counsel into these four chapters of domestic history. It is intended for the young upon whom the sterner realities of life are beginning to dawn, and will be really helpful to them.

Helpful Nellie, and other Tales (Cassell), and *The Golden Gate, and other Stories*, by HENRY G. B. HUNT (Cassell), are specimens of a class of small story-books for the young of which we have seen a great many from this publishing firm, and all that we have examined are well told and useful in tendency. One cannot seriously err in purchasing them; they are not costly, and they will be sure to gratify juvenile readers.

GIFT BOOKS FOR CHILDREN.

The Children's Hour Annual (Edinburgh: Johnstone, Hunter and Co. (is always a welcome contribution to the juvenile books of the season. This year's volume—the fifth series—consists of pretty stories, descriptive papers, religious reflections and poetical effusions, which make pleasant and profitable reading for a leisure hour. It is got up in the usual gay fashion, and with numerous woodcuts.—It can not be the fault of enterprising publishers if our juvenile population remain ignorant of natural history, or dead to the humane feelings which such

knowledge ought to inspire. The Religious Tract Society make their contribution to this object in *Animal Life in Europe*, which briefly and simply describes the characteristic of the various animals, birds, and insects which abound in Europe. It is published as a quarto volume, and is profusely illustrated with coloured plates, which will be a source of perennial pleasure to the young. The same publishing-house have also brought out *The Lord's Prayer, with Hymns and Illustrations for Little Children*. Each petition is enforced by original verses, and a full-page plate, so brilliantly coloured as will make the book highly acceptable to our young friends. The Tract Society have gained a unique reputation for their admirable tales of humble life, which are household words amongst our Sunday-schools and benevolent societies. Two more of their little stories now before us illustrate the history and experience of young people in a higher grade. *Little Serena in a Strange Land* describes the trials and triumphs of a young girl well-trained in religious principles, whose family, in consequence of a father's frailties, settled for some time in Canada. *Myra Sherwood's Cross, and How She Bore it*, is a tale of similar complexion, but more elaborate, and with a stronger religious tendency. Myra lays out herself for the benefit of her brothers and sisters, and after many trials and disappointments meets with a double reward. The book is nicely got up and illustrated.

THE MAGAZINES.

The *Fortnightly* for the present month contains, among other valuable articles, two which derive their interest from their bearing on the war and its most serious political consequence—the declaration of Russia with regard to the Treaty of 1856. The former by Mr. Frederic Harrison, and the latter by Mr. J. Stuart Mill. Mr. Harrison's essay, entitled "Bismarckism," is an eloquent and passionate attack upon Prussia for her despotism, her "militarism," and most of all, for her continuance of the war so long after obtaining all for which she had entered upon it. He contends that we English have a much deeper interest in the terrible strife than that of mere spectators, and asks, very pertinently, "What may this contest be preparing for Europe?" Mr. Harrison writes entirely from the standpoint of an ardent Republican. Of course, that being so, his sympathies are strongly with Republican France, and his antipathies equally strong towards monarchic, bureaucratic, despotic Prussia. He is not blind, indeed, to some of the faults of France which the war has brought out into strong relief, but he shows that the Germans have equal, if not similar, and perhaps worse, faults. He characterises the common English view of the war as an overgrown-schoolboy view, and contends that what we want is a political view of the war. This he proceeds to give from his own standpoint. Touching its origin, he affirms that "the professional 'classes in both countries were equally prepared for 'war,' and in some degree anxious for it. 'They were kept in restraint by the good sense of the 'mass of the people.' The war is therefore 'peculiarly the crime of Louis Napoleon and his military 'abettors.' But now the Germans have passed 'from 'the task of defence to a career of conquest,' and are fighting for military glory. The Prussian monarchy is itself the creation of war. Its people are a drilled 'nation of soldiers on furlough; its Sovereign is 'simply commander-in-chief; its aristocracy are 'simply officers of the staff; its capital is a 'camp.' He then goes on to show how this 'militarism' has permeated the whole nation, and given its tone to the whole life of the Prussian people. He ridicules the idea that the German is a 'mild, peaceable, stay-at-home creature,' and says that the 'mild 'German' reminds him of the 'mild Hindoo.' That the present generation of Prussians have three times threatened, and four times engaged in, a foreign war; and that scarcely an acre of the broad fields of Germany but has soaked with blood of one or other variety of the 'mild German.' It is easy to conjecture from these specimens what kind of measure Mr. Harrison will deal out to Bismarck—that incarnation of the military Prussian and of the unscrupulous diplomatist. "In France," he has found no match for his rival in France itself. He then complains in most passionate terms of the cruelty with which the Germans are carrying on the war, and says it is "not war, but inhuman 'cruelty and terrorism.' For the future, when the war is over, Mr. Harrison is full of fear, and, as we think, not unreasonably. "The debauchery of public 'opinion by the taint of blood, and the sinking back of 'European morality to the worst of the old level,' is no chimerical fear. He doubts, and very naturally, whether Prussia will show more leanings to liberalism when peace comes. The whole nation, he says, has been 'ground down by drill and bureaucracy, of which their 'very State education is a part, to political nonentity.' It is for Germany, not France, that Bismarck and Moltke are forging chains. He fears, therefore, that Germany may be for a century to come what France has been under Louis Napoleon, a standing menace to Europe. Our policy, then, is to be to check Prussian ambition—by diplomacy, if possible—if not, by arms. France must fight it out. She cannot be conquered; is right in refusing the terms that have been offered her. When the war is past, the Republic will rise out of the ruins of France and have a glorious career. This is the barest outline of the course of Mr. Harrison's

thoughts in this most able and eloquent article. There is much in it with which we sympathise, but it is too passionate to be altogether just, and we should prefer to discuss with him when he is in calmer mood the very serious question of setting ourselves to the task of checking Prussian ambition by arms. There are other results of such a war as this which he has not mentioned, and which tend in the direction of peace. Sad indeed will it be for Europe if all the nations do not learn some lessons from this terrible strife which will make them less eager to renew the miseries and the crimes of war. Mr. Mill's essay is a brief but exhaustive and conclusive one, on the topic of greatest interest just now—"Treaty Obligations." There is no need to say that this is just as calm and unpassionate as Mr. Harrison's is the opposite. The summary of Mr. Mill's doctrine is the following. In applying general moral rules to particular instances, there are cases in which different moral obligations conflict. Especially is this the case with international treaties. "Through the greater part of 'the present century the conscience of Europe has been 'habituated to the demoralising spectacle of treaties 'made only to be broken.' This is a most injurious thing to public morality. Yet it was inevitable. These treaties were rightly broken. The means of reconciling the sanctity of national faith with the fact that treaties are not always fit to be kept, are (1) that the nations should not impose conditions which cannot be expected to be kept; and (2) should conclude them only for a term of years. This is sound and sensible and easy of practice if only the circumstances under which treaties are usually made were such as admitted of the exercise of sound sense. They are, however, so generally the outcome of some terrible conflict of brute forces, that the victors, with whom the dictation of the terms rest, are seldom in a condition of sound sense. How far Mr. Mill's doctrine of "a republic of nations," and of international law existing for the benefit of the weaker nations, will be accepted by the "war party," we do not know. It will doubtless sound strange to them. Weak nations have hitherto been regarded by the military Powers pretty much in the same way as mice are regarded by cats. But that his doctrine is the true one we have no doubt. Mr. Mill thinks that Russia has sinned in proclaiming in so high-handed fashion her intention with regard to the Treaty of 1856. That she is justified in demanding to be released from it he allows. He thinks, however, that all that we are bound to do is to protest as we have done, and hopes that if our Government stands firm against the unreasonable clamour of the war party, some arrangement may be come to by which the obnoxious stipulations may be abrogated with the consent of all concerned.

The *Contemporary* opens with an exceedingly interesting article by Professor Huxley on "The School Boards: What they can do and what they may do," a certain portion of which will be read with peculiar interest by some of his colleagues on the London Board. Anticipating the chief difficulty in the working of the act as likely to arise from the religious element, he has already obtained from Mr. Forster an explanation of what the word "denomination" may mean, and argues from it that the act would preclude the teaching of the doctrine of the Trinity. Mr. Huxley regards with some jealousy the excess of discretionary power reserved to the "Education Department," which he says means inevitably the Education Minister of the future. He then points out what he would have the boards to aim at in the way of education:—First: Physical training and drill; Second (especially for girls): The elements of household work and domestic economy; Third: An elementary, social, and political economy; Fourth: The usual intellectual training, including artistic training. Under the third of these heads Mr. Huxley distinctly avows his desire for Bible teaching, and even for religious teaching as based on the Bible; though the terms which he uses in making the avowal will hardly satisfy the sectaries. Mr. Arthur Helps continues his most pleasant chit-chat about the war and general culture, some portions of which will do to be reprinted by the Peace Society. Readers of a metaphysical turn will find two essays in the number after their sort. One by Dr. Dalgairns on "The Theory of the Human Soul," and another by the Rev. Francis Garden "On the Word 'Infinity.'" There is also a semi-metaphysical article by Dr. Haweis on music and morals, which is worth everybody's reading. Then comes Mr. Odger (what will Mr. Matthew Arnold say?) with a paper on "The Working Man in Parliament." Very naturally he advocates the cause of his class, and complains of the difficulties that still stand in the way of their easy exercise of franchise. He asks why candidates are called on to pay for the chance of being elected if not to put obstacles in the way of working men. Well, the fact is this is part of an old system existing before the candidature of the working man was thought of. A bad system, no doubt, and one which wants to be put an end to. We are not sure either that he is right in saying that his class as a whole don't believe in middle-class representation. The facts of recent elections does not bear him out. Mr. Odger then gives a list of grievances of which the working man complains—the law of landlord and tenant, debtor and creditor, gambling, the Patent Laws. Whilst there is much in the article that is just and sound, on the whole there is too much of a class tene about it, and we would much prefer to find Mr.

Odger giving himself to the task of diminishing rather than feeding the class feeling of the section of the community of which he is an honourable representative. A paper on the Council of Trent by Dr. Aloysius Pichler (Imperial Librarian, St. Petersburg), and one on the "Great Duel," by Mr. W. R. Greg, sustain the interest of the magazine to the last page. Mr. Greg is no blind admirer of Prussia. He says it is idle to deny or palliate the historical antecedents of Prussia. They are not altogether creditable nor reassuring. He thinks that though there is much in this to excite uneasiness, there is also much to reassure us against the birth of a German lust of conquest. He charges France—the nation—with the guilt of the duel, and draws a not very pleasant picture of the task of the Government of the future when its army shall return "altogether an evil, noxious, corrupting, unmanageable thing."

After the kind of talk to which we have been accustomed of late from certain representatives of the Tory party, it is pleasant and refreshing to find *Blackwood*, in his opening paper on "Why is Prussia Victorious?" saying a word in favour not only of the marvellous skill of the Prussian administration, but even of the justice of the Prussian policy, and going so far as even to pronounce the claim for Alsace neither new nor unreasonable. Indeed, in such a settlement, *Blackwood* sees "a great deal which gives stronger hope of permanent peace to Europe than if France be left, as she was before last July, mistress of an iron frontier, whence she could always menace Germany." Altogether, the article is written in a much better tone than the majority of Tory utterances, and does full justice to the Prussian army and its great organiser and director. A paper on the "Poetry and Humour of the Scottish Language"—the second—is one of the chief attractions of the number. We cannot speak in similar terms of that on the "Rights of Majorities," the writer of which appears to be greatly troubled at the claims set up on behalf of conscience during the discussions on the education question. He is delighted with Sir B. Palmer's declaration that "majorities have rights," and on this writes an article which we commend to the careful attention of those who believe in the growing liberality of the Tory party. Of course, among the "Thoughts Suggested by the War," one of the most obvious is the danger to which Mr. Gladstone is exposing the nation, and the folly of the nation that allows it.

St. Paul's has also an able article on the "Victorious Prussians," written by Mr. Archibald Forbes, who has the advantage of speaking of that which he has seen. He was with the army during its "wonderful advance from Saarbrück to Vincennes," and has subsequently been with the besiegers of Metz; and he is thus able to give us a true idea of the men who have performed achievements without parallel in recent warfare. Like the writer in *Blackwood*, he attributes much to trained power, which, after all, is the power that ultimately must rule. Not only are the officers, and especially those of the Staff, trained in a way which shows that those at the head of affairs are determined to have reality and not mere show, but the soldiers have an intelligence which places them on a higher level than armies in general. Their intelligence, we are told, "aids greatly also in preserving the health of the army, for I cannot help ascribing to it the almost uniform sobriety of the troops, which does so much to ward off the ailments to which large bodies of troops, often in unfavourable circumstances, are so liable. All men who have seen active service know how a 'frantic spree' to-day is followed by dysentery to-morrow, and possibly by cholera the day following. The Prussians never indulge in a frantic 'spree,' and so escape the consequent disorders." In a paper entitled "Louis XIV. as a Match-maker," we have a pleasant and interesting sketch of an "Episode of the Court of the Grand Monarch." George MacDonald is just getting into his new story, and Anthony Trollope well maintains the interest of "Ralph the Heir." A review of Browning's "Poems," and a third of the beautiful series of sketches entitled "We Four in Norway," unite to make an excellent number.

Fraser opens with an article on "Progress" by the editor, which, to say the least, is strongly paradoxical and one-sided. In very much that Mr. Froude says we can agree, but there is another side of the subject which he leaves out of view, yet which needs to be carefully considered before we are able to decide whether this age can truly be regarded as an age of progress. Mr. Proctor's article on the "Eclipse of the Present Month" is timely and instructive. "At Liverpool" is the title of a capital paper, discriminating and critical, on the meeting of the British Association. The view of the federal movement in Ireland given by an Irishman, who is not himself a federalist, is a paper that deserves the attention of all who desire to understand the real political condition of that country. General Bede's parallel between the present war and that in which he himself took so important a part, is extremely ingenious and well worked out.

The *Cornhill* is specially distinguished this month by its clever pieces of fiction. Besides the usual instalments of two serials, we have a complete and touching article, which gives us some insight into French society and the condition of the French army, entitled, "Lieutenant De Chasselay, a story of 1848."

The Recollections of a Reader" are concluded, and are well sustained to the end. An historical paper on

"Trial by Battle" is also full of curious and interesting information.

The best articles in the *Gentleman's Magazine* are that on the Siege of Paris, an amusing sketch on "After-Dinner Speeches," and a touching paper on Mark Lemon. A country member's study, "Russia's Gage of Battle," is in the usual style of the war party, but with more than usual absurdity and extravagance.

Good Words for the Young began the third volume in November, with a characteristic fairy tale from Mr. Macdonald, which promises to be one of the best that has been written: We used to think that there was a little too much of the fairy element in these good words, but the perfection at present is very fairly given. The contrast of this style of writing with the Lilliput Lectures on Government is, however, rather too strong, and for ourselves, as old children, we vote for the entire omission of these lectures. Nor are we much better pleased with the lightest vein of this writer in his "Lilliput Revels." This writer, like other people, is best when he is most natural, not where he is straining after mere burlesque. The Viscountess Esfield's "Natural History" about a parrot is a capital sketch, so would Madame De Witt's "Nightworkers" be, but that is just a little too old and familiar. Grimm's Goblins does exactly the same little bit of Goblinism much better. "The Wreck of the Prospero" and "Christmas at Sea in a Cyclone," the latter, by Lady Barker, more especially, are fine bits of sea adventures. Altogether these *Good Words* are the best we have had, and the third volume begins better than either the first or the second.

MAGAZINE VOLUMES.

In the *Pulpit Analyst* completed volume, Vol. V. (Hodder and Stoughton), is some very choice and varied reading, together with much that is to our taste both foolish and offensive. Joseph Parker, "Preacher of the Word," is less qualified than most men to give suitable advice to young preachers. The value of this volume consists chiefly in the contributions of Dean Alford, Baldwin Brown, Professor Godwin, Watson Smith, and a few others who write upon subjects of interest to the Christian public, of which they have some special knowledge.

The *Bible Student* is a work of smaller pretensions, but is not without value. Each number contains a chapter on "Bible Lore," by J. Comper Gray, a Scripture biographical study, thoughts for spare moments, or notes historical or archaeological on some book of the Old Testament. Dr. Landels, Dr. Stoughton, Dr. Thompson, Annie Harwood, and Edwin Hodder are the principal contributors.

The *Cottage and Artisan*. (Tract Society.) Large type, suitable information, and excellent pictures, are characteristics of this magazine, which, thus bound up, will be a not unacceptable present to the workman and the villager.

Christian World Magazine, 1870. (London: James Clarke and Co., Fleet-street.) We have here a very cheap volume of nearly a thousand pages of varied information, including stories by Emma J. Worboise, Marianne Farningham, and Maggie Symington, besides essays and biographies by a number of ministers.

The *Leisure Hour* and *Sunday at Home*. (Religious Tract Society.) These two portly volumes, the product of the year 1870, are a monument of enterprise and success in the field of cheap literature. In looking through them we are struck with the care taken to sustain, at a very high standard, the quality both of letter-press and illustrations. In the *Leisure Hour* every occasion is keenly seized upon to impart collateral information on current topics, and the tales have quite enough of situation and sensationalism to carry the reader through. It contains almost as much Sunday reading as the companion volume—*Sunday at Home*—in which, amongst other good things, are some interesting biographical sketches, a series of papers on the miracles of Christ by the Dean of Chester, a tale illustrating the trials of Protestantism in Holland, and various fragments suited to the taste of old and young.

SHOCKING CATASTROPHES.

A fearful accident occurred at Barnsley on Monday evening. Shortly after six o'clock a number of wagons running down the incline from Barnsley Station, came into collision with a passenger train from Sheffield. The guard's van and two carriages were broken to pieces, and the results were most lamentable. Fourteen passengers are dead, and about twenty seriously injured, some of whom are not expected to recover. Those of the killed who have as yet been identified are—John Thompson, Wath; John Spofforth, Hemingfield; and Richmond, a mechanic, of Chapeltown, near Sheffield. Seven or eight men and three women remain unidentified. Nearly all the sufferers, with two exceptions, belong to the district. The local surgeons and police were in attendance, and some of the injured persons had their limbs amputated. Large fires were lighted on the line to enable the officials and others summoned to the scene of the accident to carry on the work of extricating such of the dead and dying as still lie under the debris. Most of the sufferers are supposed to belong to the South Yorkshire district.

A Dreadful Gunpowder Explosion took place on Friday, a little after noon, at the cartridge factory

of Messrs. Ludlow, situate at Wotton, close to Messrs. Kynoch's factory, where the late explosion occurred. That of Friday was the most disastrous of the kind ever known in Birmingham, and all the sufferers are girls and young women. The scene of the explosion is a range of nineteen sheds situate in a large field between Aston and Perry Bar, where about 500 hands, chiefly women and girls, were employed in making and priming cartridges. Three of the sheds, in which about 100 persons were employed, were entirely destroyed, and nearly the whole of their occupants more or less seriously injured. There appear to have been five distinct explosions—the last at an interval of three or four minutes from the preceding one. The first is supposed to have occurred in a shed where the cartridges are made, and to have been caused by the accidental ignition of a woman's apron as she stood warming herself at a stove. The sheet of flame resulting from this explosion extended to such a distance as to set on fire the two nearest sheds, which stood about fifteen yards off. All three were completely wrecked, and the remainder more or less shattered by the concussion. The result was that seventeen persons were killed on the spot, and fifty-three others so severely injured that they had to be conveyed to the hospital. The field in the vicinity was strewn with the mutilated remains of human bodies, the dead being defaced beyond recognition, and many of the survivors are difficult of identification. The inquest upon the bodies of the victims was opened on Monday. The coroner stated his intention to apply to the Government to appoint a properly qualified person for the purpose of investigating and reporting upon the whole of the circumstances. Up to this time thirty deaths have been returned.

Cleanings.

A suit of paper clothing can be bought at Pekin for one shilling.

Horne Tooke was the son of a poulterer, which he alluded to when called upon by the proud stripplings of Eton to describe himself—"I am," said Horne, "the son of an eminent Turkey merchant."

A man whose name is unknown, about forty-five years of age, after drinking deeply, lay down to sleep on Aspull Moor, near Bradford, on Wednesday night, and was found next morning frozen to death.

James B. Taylor, of New York, died recently, leaving an estate valued at nearly 3,000,000 dollars. There was great trouble in finding his will. Several days were devoted to an examination of the papers of the deceased at his house. It was finally discovered in a rather bulky-looking quarto lying in an obscure part of his bookcase.

The last traces of the Colosseum are about to disappear. Erected in 1824, it received much patronage from the last generation, and enjoyed a reputation for the gigantic pictures or panoramas exhibited there; but, after many vicissitudes, it ultimately succumbed to the more popular and central entertainments of modern times, and now its site is to be disposed of.

A HEALTHY FRUIT.—A lazy dyspeptic was bewailing his own misfortunes, and speaking with a friend on the latter's hearty appearance. "What do you do to make you strong and healthy?" inquired the dyspeptic. "Live on fruit alone," answered the friend. "What kind of fruit?" "The fruit of industry; and I am never troubled with indigestion."

NOTICE.—All announcements intended for this column must be accompanied by a remittance of half-a-crown in postage-stamps.

Births, Marriages, and Deaths.

DEATHS.

HARDIMAN.—Dec. 6, Henry Benjamin, the eldest child of the Rev. H. C. Hardiman, at Takeley, Essex, aged seventeen years.
GEARD.—Dec. 8, at Penn-road Villas, Miss Elizabeth Geard, aged fifty-one. Friends will please accept this intimation.
COCKSHAW.—Dec. 10, at Oulton Hall, near Stone, Staffordshire, the residence of his son-in-law, Mr. Albert Cockshaw, late of London, aged seventy-four.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

(From Wednesday's *Gazette*.)

An Account, pursuant to the Act 7th and 8th Victoria, cap. 32 for the week ending Wednesday, Dec. 7.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

Notes issued	£36,829,435	Government Debt	£11,015,100
		Other Securities	£3,984,000
		Gold Coins & Bullion	£1,829,435
	£36,829,435		£36,829,435

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

Proprietors' Capital	£14,553,000	Government Securities (inc. dead weight annuity)	£12,935,862
Reserve	8,065,037	Other Securities	£15,941,300
Public Deposits	6,039,972	Notes	£13,508,810
Other Deposits	18,677,780	Gold & Silver Coin	843,058
Seven Day and other Bills	913,191		
	£43,219,030		£43,219,030

Dec 8, 1870.

GEO. FORBES, Chief Cashier

HOLLOWAY'S PILLS.—When winter checks to a considerable extent the natural exhalations of the skin, any alternative is required to transfer them entirely from the body through some other channel. Holloway's Pills can be confidently recommended as the easiest, surest, and safest means of attaining this desirable end without weakening the most delicate or incommencing the most feeble. When from frequent chills or impure air the blood becomes foul, and the secretions vitiated, these Pills present a ready and efficient means of cleansing the former and correcting the latter. By these salutary proceedings disease is arrested at its outset, its pains and inconveniences averted, and the nervous structures saved from the depressing effects entailed upon them by an illness.

Markets.

CORN EXCHANGE, MARK LANE, Monday, Dec. 12.

The show of English wheat was small this morning, and foreign arrivals are moderate. We had an inactive market, and English wheat sold slowly, at the prices of Monday last. Business in foreign wheat was of limited extent, at former prices. Flour was without alteration in value. Barley of all descriptions maintained last week's prices. Peas, beans, and Indian corn were fully as dear. We have fair supplies of oats. Prices were unchanged in granary, but for parcels or ship rather less money had to be taken. At the ports of call few cargoes remain unsold, and buyers wait for larger arrivals now due. Quotations are the same as last week.

CURRENT PRICES.

WHEAT—	Per Qr.	Per Qr.	Per Qr.	Per Qr.
Best Kent	—	—	—	—
Red	—	—	—	—
White	50	53	—	—
White	—	—	—	—
White	55	58	—	—
Foreign red	51	54	—	—
Foreign white	53	57	—	—
BARLEY—				
English malt	31	34	—	—
Oatmeal	36	42	—	—
Distilling	35	38	—	—
Foreign	34	36	—	—
MALT—				
Pale	—	—	—	—
Oatmeal	—	—	—	—
Brown	40	54	—	—
BEANS—				
Black	38	41	—	—
Harrow	41	45	—	—
Small	—	—	—	—
Egyptian	38	40	—	—

BREAD, London, Saturday, Dec. 10.—The prices in the Metropolis are, for Wheat Bread, per cwt. loaf, 7½d. to 8d.; Household Bread, 6½d. to 7d.

METROPOLITAN CATTLE MARKET, Monday, Dec. 12.—The total imports of foreign stock into London last week amounted to 12,070 head. In the corresponding week in 1869 we received 7,453; in 1868, 3,887; in 1867, 9,426; and in 1866, 5,568 head. Influenced by the unfavourable weather and the comparatively long time between this and Christmas, the trade for beasts opened rather quietly. Nevertheless, the general superior quality of the stock imparted a firm tone to the quotations, and extreme rates were realised; the best Scots and crosses were disposed of at from 5s. 10d. to 6s. 3d. per 8lbs. From Lincolnshire, Leicestershire, and Northamptonshire we received about 2,100 shorthorn, &c.; from Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex, and Cambridgeshire 1,620 Scots and crosses; from Scotland 1,300 Scots and crosses; and a fair supply from Ireland. The show of sheep was good, both as regards number and condition. Although not active, the trade was firm, and the best Downs and half-breds were disposed of at 6s. to 6s. 4d. per 8lbs. Calves were firm, on former terms. Pigs sold at late rates.

For 8lbs. to sink the Oat.

Inf. coarse beasts.	2	4	6	8	10	12	14	16	18	20
Second quality	4	6	8	10	12	14	16	18	20	22
Prime large oxen	5	4	6	8	10	12	14	16	18	20
Prime 80-lbs. &c.	5	10	6	2	8	4	6	2	8	4
Coarse inf. sheep	3	6	3	10	4	6	3	10	4	6
Second quality	4	4	4	8	4	4	8	4	4	8
Pr. coarse woolled	5	2	5	10	5	2	5	10	5	2

METROPOLITAN MEAT MARKET, Monday, Dec. 12.—Our market has been moderately supplied with meat. Rather more animation has been noticed in the inquiry, at our quotations. The imports into London last week consisted of 30 packages from Rotterdam, 100 Harlingen, 17 Antwerp, and 681 from Hamburg.

Per 8lbs. by the carcase.

	s. d.	s. d.		s. d.	s. d.
Inferior beef .	3	4	to 3	4	10
Middling ditto .	3	8	4	2	3
Prime large do.	4	10	5	0	4
Do. small do.	6	2	5	4	2
Inf. mutton .	3	8	4	2	3
Middling ditto .	4	4	4	8	4
Prime ditto .	4	10	5	4	2
Veal . . .	4	8	5	4	2
Large pork .	3	4	3	8	0
Small pork .	4	4	5	0	0
Lamb . . .	0	0	0	0	0

PROVISIONS, Monday, Dec. 12.—The arrivals last week from Ireland were 2,470 firkins butter, and 5,371 bales bacon, and from foreign ports 15,623 packages butter, and 2,745 bales bacon. We have nothing particular to notice respecting the butter market. Prices of foreign ruled about as this day week. In Irish bacon we have no change to note; at the late advance dealers purchase most cautiously; Hamburg is 2s. lower.

COVENT GARDEN MARKET, Saturday, Dec. 10.—There is a slight improvement among the wholesale dealers, and orders from the provincial markets are more general than for some time past, but heavy consignments are difficult to dispose of. Good hot-house grapes, both Hamburgs and Muscats, command better prices. Peas consist of Glen Moroccan, Winter Nels, and Chamaoutels; Apples of New Town Tiffin, Ribston Pippin, Cox's Orange Pippin, and others. Amongst flowers we have Orchids, Chrysanthemums, Heaths, Cyclamens, Primulas, Tulips, Camellias, and Polyanthus.

BOROUGH HOP MARKET, Monday, Dec. 12.—Considering the advanced period of the season, the demand for all choice and colour qualities is strong, and prices remain firm. A moderate request prevails for low and medium grades, which are still plentiful, and show no improvement in value. No new feature is visible in our foreign market, which is still inactive for all but the best grades. Imports up to the present amount to 12,000 bales. No change is reported in the New York market. Mid and East Kent, 11. 15s., 3d. 10s. to 7d. 6s.; Weald, 11. 15s., 3d. 10s.; Sussex, 11. 10s., 3d. 6s. to 3d. 10s.; Farnham and country, 3d. 15s., 4d. 15s., to 6d. 6s.; Olds, 11. 10s., 1d. 15s., to 2d. 10s.

POTATOES.—BOROUGH AND SPITALFIELDS.—Monday, Dec. 12.—These markets have been only moderately supplied with potatoes. The trade has not been active, at our quotations. The import into London last week consisted of 5 parcels from Hamburg, 7 Rotterdam, and 5 from Dunkirk. English Regents, 60s. to 90s. per ton; Scotch Regents, 60s. to 85s. per ton; Rocks, 60s. to 70s. per ton.

SEED, Monday, Dec. 12.—The few samples of fine English red cloverseed offering were placed at the full prices of last week; new white comes forward slowly and commands high prices. There is not much foreign red cloverseed on sale. New American is wanted to make up the deficiency of French, and will command fair prices this season. Brown and white mustardseed were held on former times, but little passing in either sort. Good English canaryseed realised full rates. Large hempseed was quite as dear. Foreign tares were offered on former terms, but there was not much inquiry for any sort. The best qualities of trefoil were held at previous currencies.

OIL, Monday, Dec. 12.—Lined oil has been in moderate request. Rape has been firm. Olive oil has changed hands slowly. Coconut has advanced on the week, owing to the rise in the value of tallow. Other oils have been steady in value, but the demand for them has not been active.

TALLOW, Monday, Dec. 12.—The market has been quiet. Y.O., on the spot, 42s. 6d. per cwt. Town Tallow, 41s. 3d. net cash.

COAL, Monday, Dec. 12.—Market heavy, at last day's rates. Hotten's Walbrook, 18s. 6d.; ditto South, 18s. 6d.; ditto Lyons, 18s. 6d.; Harton, 18s. 6d.; Haswell, 18s. 6d.; Kellie South, 18s. 6d.; Tanstead, 18s. 6d.; Eden Main, 17s.; Holywell Main, 17s.; Hartley, 16s.; Tanfield, 14s. 9d. Ships fresh arrived 10. Ships left from last day, 6. Ships at sea, 5.

Advertisements.

THE ELEMENTARY EDUCATION ACT.

CENTRAL NONCONFORMIST COMMITTEE,
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PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS FOR THE FORMATION OF SCHOOL BOARDS.

Information and advice may be obtained by applications addressed to the "Secretary," at the office of the Committee.

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Candidates should be at once nominated. The charity requires nearly £300 weekly for its support. It depends upon voluntary contributions for three-fourths of its annual income, and at the present time is greatly straitened for want of means.

DONATIONS and NEW SUBSCRIPTIONS will be gratefully received by

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URGENT APPEAL.—The ALEXANDRA ORPHANAGE for INFANTS, Hoxsey-rise, is much distressed at the present time for want of means. There are 104 infants under care, and 12 waiting to be received. The Orphanage has ample accommodation for 200 at present, and is intended for 400. Contributions are very earnestly solicited, and will be thankfully received.

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No salaries are paid but to the household.

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The NEXT TERM commences JAN. 30, 1871.

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Established in 1847.

Profits all belong to the Members, and are apportioned every three years.

Cash Bonus of 2½ per cent. just declared.

Accumulated Fund is equal to six years of the nett premiums.

Last Report and Balance Sheet to be obtained from

ALFRED LENCH SAUL, Secretary

Money advanced on Freehold and other good securities.

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BROOCHES, NINEVEH, " £3 0

BROOCHES, SAXON, " £4 0

BROOCHES, EGYPTIAN, " £5 0

CHAINS, PRINCESS, " £3 0

CHAINS, CYLINDER, " £3 0

CHAINS, CURB, " £4 0

CHAINS, CABLE, " £5 0

EARRINGS, ETRUSCAN, " £1 10

EARRINGS, SAXON, " £2 5

EARRINGS, EGYPTIAN, " £3 5

EARRINGS, NINEVEH, " £4 10

LOCKETS, ENGRAVED, " £1 0

LOCKETS, CORDED, " £2 10

LOCKETS, CROSS, " £4 0

GOLD WATCHES, LADIES', £8 8

GOLD WATCHES, " £10 10

GOLD WATCHES, ½-PLATE, £15 15

GOLD WATCHES (HUNTING), £11 11

GOLD WATCHES, ¾-PLATE, £16 16

GOLD WATCHES, " £20 0

GOLD WATCHES, KEYLESS £15 10

GOLD WATCHES, " £22 0

GOLD WATCHES (HUNTING), £18 18

CLOCKS, CARRIAGE, £5 0

CLOCKS, " (STRIKING), £7 7

CLOCKS, " " (ON GONG), £12 12

CLOCKS, LIBRARY (MARBLE), £4 0

CLOCKS, " " £10 12

CLOCKS, " " £14 0

CLOCKS, " " (ORMOLU), £10 0

CLOCKS, " " £16 0

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